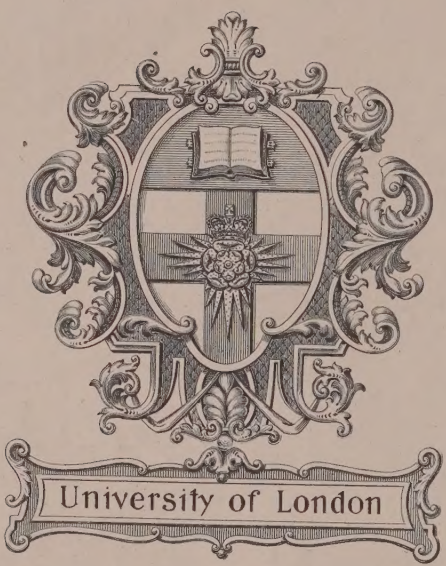
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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

FORTY-FOUR VOLUMES.

—(43.)—

STATE PAPERS—*continued.*

SPAIN; TUNIS; TURKEY; ZANZIBAR.

Session

8 *February* — 15 *August* 1876.

VOL. LXXXIV.

1876.

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

1876.

FORTY-FOUR VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

FORTY-THIRD VOLUME.

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SPAIN. No. 3 (1876).

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

MURDER OF MR. ROBERT,

AT

SAN JUAN DEL PUERTO,

IN

SPAIN.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

[C.—1606.] *Price* 1½*d.*

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Correspondence respecting the Murder of Mr. Robert, at San Juan del Puerto, in Spain.

No. 1.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 14.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, July* 8, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to report that I this day addressed to Her Majesty's Legation at Madrid a despatch, of which the inclosed is a copy, with reference to the assassination, at San Juan del Puerto, of Mr. James Frederick Robert, a British subject, in the service of the British Mining and Railway Company, of Buitron, in the Province of Huelva.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Reade to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Cadiz, July* 8, 1871.

BY a despatch which I this day received from the British Vice-Consul at Huelva, I am informed that Mr. James Frederick Robert, a British subject, in the service of the British Mining and Railway Company of Buitron, was assassinated on the 2nd instant, at San Juan del Puerto, the place of his residence; that although the assassination took place at 9 o'clock in the morning, in the principal Square of the town, and before a crowd of witnesses, and was effected by means of a clasp-knife ("nabaja"), which was plunged into the deceased's abdomen, the medical man by whom the *post-mortem* examination was conducted, subsequently pronounced "pulmonia," or inflammation of the lungs, to have been the immediate cause of deceased's death; that the known assassin, Juan Fernandez y Beltran, a son of Don Manuel Fernandez y Rodriguez, the second Alcalde of the place, had not been arrested; that the second Alcalde himself, Don Manuel Fernandez, and other members of his family, who also took part in the crime, were still in the enjoyment of their personal liberty; and that, in fact, the measures generally adopted by the Authorities in connection with this painful affair, have hitherto been of a nature rather to defeat the ends of justice than to secure the punishment of the criminals.

Under these circumstances I have determined to proceed at once to Huelva, for the purpose of urging the Authorities to a more energetic and dignified course of procedure, and taking what other steps I may deem the occasion to require.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 2.

Mr. Docwra to Earl Granville.—(Received July 17.)

My Lord, *Ball's Pond Road, Islington, N., July 15, 1871.*

I BEG to lay before your Lordship a statement of the facts connected with brutal murder of Mr. Robert, an Englishman in my employ, at the town of San Juan del Puerto, in the Province of Huelva, in the Kingdom of Spain.

I am the contractor for the construction of the railway from San Juan to the mines at Buitron, for the Buitron and Huelva Railway and Mineral Company of London, and have had for some time the working of the traffic of the line for the Company.

I have at the present time a son, and other English engineers engaged in the superintendence of works in the part of Spain wherein this outrage has been committed, and in their interest, as well as my own, I am constrained to beg your Lordship's intervention in the case, so that justice may speedily be done. Threats against other Englishmen have been openly made, and unless the law of Spain proves in this case equal to the emergency, they will, I am afraid, be carried out.

I would respectfully submit, that the social position of the father of the assassin (that of second Magistrate) justifies me in asking for the interference of the Government with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS DOCWRA.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Statement of the Facts connected with the Assassination of Mr. Robert, a British subject, Foreman in the employ of the Buitron and Huelva Railway and Mineral Company, at the Town of San del Puerto, in the Province of Huelva, in the Kingdom of Spain.

ON the *fête* day of S. Juan Robert gave a ball at his house, to which came the first Alcalde, the Judge of the town, &c. While the ball was going on some men made their way in, and as they were in the way, Robert asked them to go out, and there being two "Gardes Civiles" in the place the men were ejected.

A short time afterwards there was a knock at Robert's door, to which he himself replied by opening the door. As soon as he had done so he was violently assaulted by some one at present not identified.

Two or three days after the above occurrence, as Robert was returning home with his wife, rather late in the evening, he was set upon by the second Alcalde of S. Juan and his son, and severely beaten.

On Sunday morning the 2nd July, about 7 A.M., Robert was informed that one of the men engaged in the two assaults had passed along the street. Robert immediately followed him to see who he was, and found it to be a son of the second Alcalde. Before Robert could get up to the man he was following he (Robert) was seized from behind by the man's father and thrown on the ground; a brother of the man came up at the moment and joined in the assault, and the man himself got down from the cart and plunged his knife twice into Robert as he lay on the ground.

The wife of the Alcalde came out of her house and kicked and jumped upon the wounded man, while some of the bystanders joined in the brutality with blows and kicks.

Mr. Robert died on the Monday, leaving a wife and three children.

The medical man sent up by the authorities reports that the man died of "inflamation of the lungs," while two medical men, called in by the friends of the deceased, certify the stabs were mortal and the cause of death.

The second Alcalde has been, we are informed, placed in prison, but the sons have escaped, and there is fear, unless energetic steps are taken, that justice will be evaded, there being a bad feeling against Englishmen in the town.

There are other Englishmen employed on the same works against whom threats have been made, and their situation is critical.

(Signed) THOMAS DOCWRA.

July 15, 1871.

No. 3.

Mr. C. W. Robert to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 20.)

My Lord, *Queen's Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, July* 19, 1871.

I BEG to lay before your Lordship the particulars of the dreadful murder of my brother, James Robert, an Englishman, at the town of San Juan del Puerto, in the Province of Huelva, in the Kingdom of Spain.

I respectfully ask of you to have the law carried out to its full extent on this murderous family. The father being second Magistrate justifies us in asking on behalf of the widow for compensation, and the interference of the Government with as little delay as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. W. ROBERT.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Mrs. Robert to Mr. C. W. Robert.

The Buitron and Huelva Railway and Mineral Company (*Limited*),
Dear Sir, *Officinas Centrales, St. Juan, Huelva, Spain, July* 6, 1871.

THIS is to inform you that my husband received your letter of March 6th, and we were exceedingly sorry to see by it that you were greatly depressed in spirits when you wrote your letter to him. But you picture the road of this life true, or, I may say, too true, for it is the path we must all go sooner or later. Dear sir, and now I must tell you (for told it must be), that is, the death of your brother James. He was assassinated by the hand of a Spaniard on the 2nd of July. I will give you the part of the particulars of how it happened to him. On the 24th of June, he had a sort of ball in his house in San Juan; for, to let you understand, we are shifted down from Valverde to this town again. To resume again, we had started to dance, when a number of young men wanted to force an entrance into the house, which was impossible, for the house was too full of people already. At last we got them to go outside the door, and then shut the door, so as to keep any more stragglers out that might come that way. But they did not go away; they knocked two or three times to gain admittance, when my husband went to the door, and had it half opened, when one of the men seized hold of him by the arm and tried to drag him outside the door, but not being able to do so, he let go his arm and struck him in the face with his hand and made off. This happened on the 24th June. Next day I found out that it was the Second Judge's son who had committed the insult; and on the 29th James and myself were coming home after having visited a friend, when this same young man sprang out from a door in the street, and seized hold of James by the collar of his coat and struck him in the face with his hand; and I being with him, I clung to his arm, so as to keep James doing anything to him, and somehow or other we both fell to the ground, and the time we were down he kicked James once or twice, and took out his knife to stab him, but some persons came up at the time and took him away. Now on the 2nd July James was standing on the doorstep of neighbour's house, when a young man that was along with my husband said (pointing with his hand), "That is the fellow that insulted you the other, or on the 29th." James goes over to him, and was asking him his reasons for insulting him in the manner he did, when all at once he was thrown to the ground with great force by some person behind, and this was no other person than this man's father, who was coming up behind his son on the road; and when he saw James going over to his son, I suppose he thought that there was to be a quarrel, so he ran up behind him and knocked him down, and when he was down on the ground the son took out his knife in an instant and stabbed him in bowels very badly, and made off. Then up came his mother, half dressed, and commenced jumping and stamping with her feet upon his chest, while he was still down on the ground; likewise, two or or three more belonging to the same family came up with sticks and beat him unmercifully. Dear sir, it was really awful to see the way my poor husband was slaughtered amongst these demons! At last he got up and tried to run home, when every one gave him a buffet as he passed them; he only lived thirty-six hours after. This same family had bribed the doctor, that when he gave in his report about my husband's death—that it was

not the treatment he got from them; that the stab was nothing—to say that his lungs were affected badly, and he had caught a cold, which had caused his death. But we got two doctors from the town of Huelva, and had him opened, and they gave in their report that it was all false what the doctor said: his death was caused by the woman jumping and stamping upon his breast. They said half what he got would have killed the strongest man; the stab would have been his death; but it was only a question of him living a few days longer. They would not allow us to bury him in the churchyard; they told me that I might take him to some field and bury him there. Dear sir, it was a hard case—the whole town against me; the only friends I had was a few working at the station. We got him carried inside the station ground, which is English property. The English Consul has taken up the case. They have apprehended the father and a number more. Dear sir, I need not say any more about it, only hoping that you will do what you can with your Government to make the Spanish Government give some satisfaction. I now close, hoping that you won't let this case rest. I am doing what I can here.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) CARMEN ROBERT.

No. 4.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 22, 1871.

I LEARN from Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, that he has been in communication with you on the subject of the assassination of Mr. James F. Robert, a British subject in the service of the British Mining and Railway Company of Buitron, in the Province of Huelva, I now transmit to you a copy of a letter from Mr. Docwra,* inclosing a statement of the facts of the case; and I have to instruct you to call upon the Spanish Government to cause a full investigation to be made into the matter, with a view of bringing to justice the parties implicated in this brutal outrage.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 5.

Mr. Odo Russell to Mr. Docwra.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 22, 1871.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, inclosing a statement of facts connected with the murder of Mr. James Robert, at San Juan del Puerto, and I am to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz reported, on the 8th instant, that he was about to proceed to Huelva to inquire into the matter, and I am further to inform you that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid has been instructed to call upon the Spanish Government to cause a full investigation to be made into the circumstances of the case with a view of bring the parties concerned in the assassination to justice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 6.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. C. W. Robert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 22, 1871.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, relative to the murder of your brother, James Robert, at San Juan del Puerto, and I am to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz reported, on the 8th instant, that he was about to proceed to Huelva to inquire into th

* No. 2.

matter, and I am further to inform you that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid has been directed to call upon the Spanish Government to cause a full investigation to be made into the circumstances of the case with a view to bring the criminals to justice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 7.

Messrs. Docwra and Sons to Earl Granville.—(Received July 25.)

My Lord, *Ball's Pond Road, Islington, July 24, 1871.*

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter, per Mr. Odo Russell, addressed to our Mr. Thomas Docwra, informing him of the steps that had been taken to assist in bringing to justice the murderer of our employé Mr. James Robert, at San Juan del Puerto, and beg to tender our thanks for the prompt action that has been taken in the case.

We have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. DOCWRA AND SONS.

No. 8.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received August 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *San Ildefonso, August 1, 1871.*

MAY I authorise Consul at Cadiz to defray law expenses for trial of assassins of Robert?

No. 9.

Mr. Ffrench to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2)

My Lord, *Madrid, July 27, 1871.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 22nd instant, respecting the murder of Mr. J. F. Robert, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in obedience to the instructions therein contained, I have this day addressed a note to General Cordova, demanding a full investigation of the case.

I have also the honour to state that, on the 13th instant, I made a similar request to Señor Ulloa, then Minister of Grace and Justice, and that his Excellency replied he would write to the Judge of Huelva, instructing him to pay every attention to Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz on his arrival at San Juan del Puerto. Señor Ulloa added that such recommendation, and the rectitude of the Judge, would guarantee the administration of strict justice in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. PERCY FFRENCH.

No. 10.

Mr. C. W. Robert to Earl Granville.—(Received August 2.)

My Lord, *Queen's Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, August 1, 1871.*

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter informing me of the steps that had been taken to assist in bringing to justice the murderers of my brother James Robert, at San Juan del Puerto, and beg to tender our thanks for the prompt action that has been taken in the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. ROBERT.

No. 11.

Mr. Odo Russell to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1871.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you the inclosed documents mentioned in the margin,* giving the particulars of the murder of Mr. James F. Robert, a British subject, in the service of the British Mining and Railway Company, at Buitron, in the Province of Huelva.

I also inclose the draft of a despatch which his Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid,† instructing him to press the Spanish Government to institute a full investigation into the matter, and in laying those papers before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, I am to request that you will move their Lordships to inform Lord Granville whether Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz may be authorized to defray the law expenses for the trial of the assassins in this case.

I am to request that these inclosed papers, which are sent in original, may be returned to this Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 12.

Mr. T. Docwra to Earl Granville.—(Received August 4.)

My Lord, *Ball's Pond Road, Islington, August* 2, 1871.

IN continuation of my letters to your Lordship of the 15th and 24th July, relative to the murder of James Robert in San Juan, in Spain, I beg to hand, for your Lordship's perusal, a copy of the report made to me by my chief employé in charge of the works of the Buitron and Huelva Railway, Mr. T. A. Greenhill, C.E., as to the facts of this brutal assassination, and the efforts being made to shield the guilty persons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS DOCWRA.
(*Pro* Henry Wallis.)

Inclosure in No. 12.

Account of the Assassination of James Robert at San Juan del Puerto.

ON the evening of the patron Saint-day of St. Juan, which was kept on the 25th June, Robert had a small party of friends, whom he had invited to a dance, one of those present being the first Alcalde.

A lot of young men pushed into the passage and room during the evening without invitation, and seriously impeded the guests from amusing themselves.

Robert asked two Civil Guards, who were present, to turn them out, but it seems they did not do so directly, but told Robert that if he requested those uninvited to leave the room they would back him up, and see that his request was attended to, and accordingly it was so done.

Among those so turned out was, it appears, the son of the second Alcalde, and he was very impertinent and abusive. Some time after there was a knock at the door, and on Robert opening it to see who it was, an attempt was made to drag him into the street, which he successfully resisted, but received a severe blow in the face. To avoid any disturbance Robert shut the door, without saying anything about it.

There is no proof, but there is, I believe, not a shadow of a doubt but that the aggressor was the son of the second Alcalde.

Robert the next day complained to the Municipal Judge, but without any effect.

On the following Friday evening, June 30th, Robert and his wife had been to

* Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

† No. 4.

pay a visit to some friends in the town, and were returning home arm-in-arm when Robert was suddenly set upon and severely knocked about the head by a man who turned out to be the son of the second Alcalde. Robert was prevented from defending himself by his wife clasping her arms round him.

Several of the bystanders, however, interfered, and dragged the assailant away—his father and the Municipal Judge coming up at the moment. The first thing done by the father, who, as second Alcalde, was bound to see the laws respected, and to maintain peace and quietness, was to strike and abuse the man holding his son for "not allowing him to kill the Englishman."

Robert's friend, José Foscano, an influential man in the place, came up and took him back home, the Municipal Judge accompanying them, and Robert made a second complaint to him, again without result; in fact, the Judge declares he saw no signs of blows on Robert's face, although the result was an awful black eye. The next day Robert went to Huelva to complain to the Vice-Consul there of the treatment he had been subjected to, without any effort on the part of the authorities to protect him, or punish his assailants.

The Consul wrote a letter of complaint to the Civil Governor, and went with Robert to call upon him, so that Robert had an opportunity of explaining the whole affair to the Governor, who it seems wrote to the Authorities at San Juan on the subject.

Robert returned to San Juan, and on the following morning (Sunday) went to call on his friend Foscano, having previously asked one of the men employed at San Juan station, who was standing in the street, to show him the son of the second Alcalde if he passed, in order that he might know him, and avoid him.

This, it appears, he did, on the man and one of his brothers passing shortly afterwards, with a cart load of straw.

Robert immediately followed them, and, whether it was before reaching the cart, or after overtaking it and returning, is not very clear, was seized by the second Alcalde and thrown on the ground. One of the sons came up and struck Robert several times, and then the other came and stabbed him. After this the wife of the second Alcalde appeared on the scene, and began kicking and jumping on the poor fellow, and she was followed by several others, who kicked, struck, and otherwise maltreated him.

They then appear to have left him to get up and stagger home in the best way he could, without a single person to assist him; on the contrary, he was assailed by abuse and blows the greater part of the way.

A sword-stick is produced, which it is asserted he drew and attempted to attack the son, on which the father says he seized him, and took it away from him when he threw him on the ground. Thus, according to their own tale, it was stabbing an unarmed man on the ground, and held by one or two others.

This habit of carrying sword-sticks is almost universal in Spain, and Robert merely did as others. Lately, however, he used to carry a smaller and lighter common walking stick, and did not do so on this occasion, as he had lost it.

It is proved that when he started after the cart, he had not a trace or sign of anger in his face or manner.

On arriving at home, the doctor came and commenced the first attempt to shield the murderers, and which was the cause of the first twenty-four hours being lost, and time given to concert the scheme of defence, and prepare the witnesses.

He strapped up the wound, saying there was not the slightest danger, and made his declaration before the authorities to the same effect, giving the exact depth to which the wound had penetrated, to show that it (the knife) had not entered the cavity of abdomen. Little fear in consequence was felt of a fatal termination, no steps were taken to get a deposition from Robert (this was a great point for the murderers, and evidently what they wished), the Consul was simply informed of his being wounded; and, as the wound was stated to be slight, the persons causing it could not be arrested.

To preserve appearances, the Judge made his appearance, and commenced to take Robert's deposition, but the doctor said he was not in a state to be interrogated (although he had declared the wound to be a scratch and of no importance), so the Judge went away, promising to return to complete it, which he never did. Nevertheless, they produce the depositions of Robert full of inaccuracies, but not signed, as "he was unable to put his signature to it." Nevertheless, there is a letter from Robert to the Consul posterior to this declaration, and signed by Robert with his usual signature.

This deposition is written in the same handwriting, with the same ink, and absolutely similar to several pages before and after it in the general proceedings in the cause.

The next day (Monday, July 3rd), Robert began to get worse, and another doctor from Moguer was called in to consult with, the San Juan doctor in attendance persistently refusing to call the Doctor of the Railway from Figueros.

This doctor from Moguer was not shown the wound, but all his attention was directed to the chest.

Robert was not declared to be in a dangerous state till late in the afternoon. No steps were taken by the authorities at San Juan to get a deposition, for the good reason that they had a good one prepared, and there was not time to communicate with Huelva, and in the course of the evening he died. An attempt was made to pass the *post mortem* examination performed by the San Juan doctor and a barber, but this was frustrated, and two doctors from Huelva assisted.

This brought to light that the knife had entered the left side just above the groin, and run right through all the intestines, &c., and damaged the pancreas, which is on the right side.

The effect of this was that the fœcal matters escaped into the cavity of the abdomen, producing inflammation and distension of the intestines, which, in consequence, pressed hard upon the lungs, producing congestion, and, in fact, suffocating him.

This is the foundation for the doctor's report that he died of congestion of the lungs, so as to save him from the consequences of having declared the wound of no consequence.

There are, however, several contradictions in his report, which will get him into trouble.

Since then the Judge of Huelva has been taking evidence in the case, and was one night at San Juan, but time has been given to arrange everything. All the inhabitants of the houses near the scene of the the murder were "asleep in bed," "out in the fields," or "in their back yards and saw nothing." One man was in his yard feeding his chickens, heard a row, and came out into the street, saw the commencement of the struggle, and saw the crowd close round, and coolly "went back to feed his chickens."

It appears that the father of the second Alcalde married the mother of the notary who took the depositions in conjunction with the Municipal Judge, and they were brought up together as brothers.

The Municipal Judge is nephew or second cousin of the second Alcalde.

Every effort is being made to stifle the affair, and any witness who would be willing to speak the truth dare not do so.

The whole of the authorities of San Juan are against the English, and the inhabitants of the town are known as a "very bad lot indeed."

Robert's two complaints were taken no notice of, and the same result has befallen dozens of complaints made by me against people for damage of line, &c.

The second Alcalde, on the occasion of a small fire caused by the engine, attempted to take the gun from the hands of a guard, with the avowed intention of shooting the driver of an engine standing by, and afterwards rode at me on the line abusing me in the foulest language possible, and saying I and all connected with the line ought to be shot.

The Civil Governor himself told me that, in his opinion, every man in the place deserved to be shot, and that it would be a good thing for the province if the town could be burnt down and all the inhabitants killed.

I could keep on multiplying the charges against them, but I think I have given enough.

There is not the slightest doubt but that a most barbarous and cowardly murder has been committed, and one in which the English Government is fully justified in interfering, as the authorities of a town are implicated, so that every effort legal or illegal will be made to let them escape, or rather get them off.

If the murderers are not punished, the lives of no Englishmen will be safe for a moment. We have enough to contend with, as it is in the disinclination of the authorities in places like this to give us justice in little matters, but if in matters of such gravity they escape with impunity, our lives are not worth a day's purchase, especially after the efforts we have been making to bring them to justice. If they escape, they will immediately set to work to revenge themselves, encouraged still more by their escape.

If strong representations are not made by the English Government, the affair will drag along slowly, and come at last to nothing.

The English Government must also claim from the Spanish repayment of all the costs of the cause, and an indemnity for the widow. The goods of the second Alcalde and son are embargoed, but they will do all they can, and be assisted in this by their friends to convey away as much as possible.

The father gave himself up, thinking the Civil Governor would let him go, but, to his surprise, he ordered him to be locked up in the prison, where he is still. The son has not yet been taken, although I believe he is in San Juan hidden in the house of the first Alcalde; but no search can be made, as, according to the last constitution, a man's house is inviolable.

I repeat, and am supported in my opinion by those who are capable of judging, that our almost only hope is in the energetic representations of the English Government, so that extraordinary means may be taken. No slur is meant to be cast on the authorities at Huelva (either Judge or Civil Governor), but they are so occupied with their manifold duties, that they have not the time to attend to this case as it merits and requires, and the more time goes on, the more difficult will it be to get the evidence required.

(Signed) T. A. GREENHILL.

Valverde, July 27, 1871.

No. 13.

Mr. Law to Viscount Enfield.—(*Received August* 9.)

My Lord, *Treasury Chambers, August* 9, 1871.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them Mr. Russell's letter of the 3rd instant, and its inclosures, relative to the murder, at San Juan del Puerto, of Mr. James F. Robert, a British subject in the service of the British Mining and Railway Company.

Their Lordships desire me to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl Granville, that under the circumstances stated in the papers inclosed in your letter, and which are returned herewith, they will be prepared to sanction the payment, out of public funds, of any expense which may be incurred in bringing the assassins to justice, in the event of the Spanish Government declining to undertake the prosecution.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM LAW.

No. 14.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ffrench.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 9, 1871, 4·30 P.M.

IF Spanish Government decline to prosecute the assassins of Robert, authorize Consul at Cadiz to defray the law expenses for that purpose.

No. 15.

Mr. Dyett to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 26.)

My Lord, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., August* 25, 1871.

MR. THOMAS DOCWRA, the contractor for this Company's railway in Spain, has already informed you of the murder of a British subject named "Robert" at San Juan, in the Province of Huelva, and I am also aware Mr. Docwra received a reply from Mr. Odo Russell, dated 22nd July, 1871, to say that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid had been instructed to call upon the Spanish Government to cause a full investigation to be made into the circumstances.

We are, however, in receipt of letters from Huelva that give us to understand that there is great reluctance on the part of the authorities at Huelva to see that

justice is done; we are informed that influence has been brought to bear on the Judge, and through his not acting promptly the actual murderer, though well known, is still at large, and the prime mover and incitor of the whole sad affair, his mother, it still at liberty.

We are also informed that the Judge has had letters from members of the Government telling him to favour Zacarias (the man they have taken up for the murder), and our correspondent further states that he is thoroughly convinced that nothing whatever will be done, unless most energetic measures are taken on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

Under these circumstances may I be allowed most strongly to urge upon your Lordship to make an urgent remonstrance to the Spanish Government, otherwise I fear, if this case is not most searchingly investigated, the lives of this Company's employés in Spain may be in great danger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT, *Secretary.*

No. 16.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 29, 1871.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I transmit to you a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Buitron and Huelva Railway* on the subject of the murder of the British subject James Robert, and I have to instruct you to move the Spanish authorities to take active measures for the arrest of the murderers, who are said to be still at large.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 29, 1871.

IN reply to your letter of the 25th instant, I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that immediately intelligence of the murder of James Robert was received by Her Majesty's Government, instructions were sent out to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid to call upon the Spanish Government to cause a full investigation to be made into the matter, in order that the parties implicated might at once be brought to justice. No report has as yet been received, but I am to state to you that a copy of your letter will be sent to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires without delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 18.

Mr. Ffrench to Earl Granville.—(Received September 7.)

(Extract.) *San Ildefonso, September* 3, 1871.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 29th ultimo, on the subject of the murder of James Roberts, I have the honour to state that, as soon as I received the account of it from Mr. Consul Reade, I addressed a note to the Spanish Government, moving them to take the most active measures for the arrest and punishment of the murderer, as well as corresponding privately with Señor Montero Rios, the Minister of Grace and Justice, who has repeatedly promised me to do all that he can to force the authorities to exert themselves.

Mr. Reade has displayed the utmost zeal in making researches and in animating the local authorities, but he informs me that the difficulties are very great.

* No. 15.

The Minister of Grace and Justice has been absent from Madrid during the last three weeks, but has now returned, and I will lose no opportunity of pressing the matter upon him.

I have this day addressed a further note to General Cordova, requesting him to press the authorities to take more active and speedy measures for the arrest of the murderers.

No. 19.

Mr. Ffrench to Earl Granville.—(Received September 7.)

My Lord, *San Ildefonso, September* 4, 1871.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch and its inclosure, which I have this day received from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, stating that fresh difficulties have arisen in the bringing to justice of the assassin of James Roberts.

I have communicated Mr. Diaz's despatch in a private letter to the Minister of Grace and Justice, and I hope that, in learning the state in which the affair now is, his Excellency will be induced to take some energetic measures.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. PERCY FFRENCH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

Consul Reade to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Cadiz, August* 31, 1871.

WITH reference to my former communication on the subject of the assassination of a British subject named James Roberts at San Juan del Puerto, I have the honour to inclose the accompanying translation of a despatch dated the 29th instant from the British Vice-Consul at Huelva.

I regret to gather from Mr. Diaz's communication that the case is not progressing as satisfactorily as it ought to do, but that, on the contrary, events have occurred within the last few days which tend materially to enhance the difficulties with which we have had to contend throughout the prosecution of this affair.

First of all, the Vice-Consul writes that a plan I had, with the sanction and approval of the authorities, determined upon, with a fair prospect of success, for the purpose of securing the capture of the assassin, has been thwarted by the newly-appointed Civil Governor, who has caused the sum I offered as a reward to any person who might give such evidence as would lead to the apprehension of the criminal, to be returned to me.

In the next place, I am informed that Don Pedro Lavin, the Promoter Fiscal, with whom the definitive settlement of the case rested, the sentence of the Juez de Premera Instancia being inexecutable until after its confirmation by the Promoter Fiscal, and in whose uprighteousness and whose ability I had unbounded confidence, has been removed to another post.

And thirdly, that, although it is pretty well known the assassin continues in the immediate vicinity of the spot where the murder was committed, he has hitherto evaded detection, partly through the interest which appears to be entertained by the more influential people of that district, and partly through the terror of constitutional law which prohibits the searching any house except under an order from the Juez de Paz, who, in the present instance, is a near relative of the assassin, and has contributed so largely to the latter's escape by the course of procedure he adopted during the first phase of this painful affair.

Having already propounded the suggestion which Mr. Diaz expresses respecting the nomination of a Special Commissioner to inquire into and determine the case, it is unnecessary for me to confirm what I have on a former occasion stated.

I would beg, however, to suggest that, inasmuch as the local authority have thought proper to disallow or annul the arrangement I had previously resolved upon with their approval, sanction, and co-operation, touching the reward to be given for

information leading to the arrest of the assassin, they be held specially responsible for his capture.

With regard to Mr. Diaz' remarks respecting the rumoured presence of the criminal at San Juan del Puerto or in its immediate neighbourhood, and the continued occupancy of the post of Juez de Paz by a relative of the murderer, the serious attention of the Supreme Government will, I am persuaded, be called by you to the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Vice-Consul Diaz to Consul Reade.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Huelva, August* 29, 1871.

ACCORDING to what I indicated to you in my letter of the 26th, I delivered the same evening to the Commandant of the Guardia Civil, the 2,000 reals set apart as a reward to the person who may give such information as would lead to the apprehending of Mr. Robert's assassin.

In consequence of a consultation which the said Commandant had with the Civil Governor, it was afterwards resolved not to accept that arrangement, and the sum of money referred to was returned to me, with an assurance that every effort would be made for the capture of the criminal, and that it was not necessary we should assist them with the funds in question. I, however, informed them I would continue to hold the money at their disposition, for the purpose of rewarding the person through whose instrumentality the capture of the criminal might be effected.

The fact is—and the Guardia Civil, as well as all the inhabitants of San Juan del Puerto know it very well, and do not deny it—the assassin, Juan Fernandez y Rodriguez, is at this moment in concealment in that town, and protected by the Authorities and people of position there, and he has been seen to leave the place where he is hiding, and go by night to his own house. In reply to my representations with regard to so strange a state of things, I am told that the 1st Article of the Constitution must be complied with, in virtue of which no house can be entered or searched without authority to that effect being previously given by the Juez de Paz, who, as you know, is a relative of Juan Fernandez, and one of the most zealous defenders of the crime.

I repeat, what I have already so often stated to you orally and in writing, that if the Government of His Majesty King Amadeus does not show some energy, and send down a specially-commissioned Judge and Escribano for the exclusive purpose of trying this cause, as it now stands, we cannot hope to see the facts of the case brought to light, or the criminals punished.

The Fiscal of this district has been removed to Cordova, and his post occupied by a young lawyer of this place until the arrival of his successor, which may be deferred for some time, as nobody even yet knows who is to be appointed to the vacancy.

The new Governor of this Province, Don Joaquin Rossel, a distinguished young man of unquestionable ability, and animated with noble zeal for the good of the career on which he has entered, appears anxious to contribute towards the *dénouement* of this crime, but he can do but little, as the affair pertains to the judicial administration, and because, so far as regards the arrest of the criminal, the latter is protected by the most influential parties of San Juan del Puerto, such as the Alcalde, Juez de Paz, Escribano, &c., who are his relations, and consequently no house can be searched without Fernandez obtaining timely notice, and hiding himself in some other locality, whereby the action of the law is stultified.

I am sorry not to be able to give you more satisfactory intelligence. I should add, however, that Mr. Robert's widow has been here, and declares she has not written any letter to the Ambassador. I have tried to imagine who could have made use of her name in this matter.

It is very strange that any one should assume the name of the widow for the purpose of claiming justice, and that there should not at the same time be found a

single person ready to give evidence with regard to so horrible and so scandalous a crime.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD DIAZ.

No. 20.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 8, 1871.

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the steps which you have taken to bring to justice the murderers of James Robert as reported in your despatch of the 3rd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 21.

Mr. Ffrench to Earl Granville.—(Received September 11.)

My Lord, *San Ildefonso, September* 7, 1871.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch and its inclosure from Mr. Consul Reade, with respect to the proceedings against the assassin of James Robert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. PERCY FFRENCH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Consul Reade to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Cadiz, September* 2, 1871.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st ultimo, I beg to inclose herewith a copy and translation of an "oficio" which I this day addressed to the Civil Governor of Huelva for the purpose of signifying to his Excellency that whatever responsibility may attach to the late refusal to carry out the arrangement I had previously come to with the Local Authorities respecting a sum of money offered as a reward for such information as might lead to the capture of the late Mr. Robert's murderer must rest with them.

I took occasion in the same communication to remonstrate against the manifest injustice of allowing the Juez de Paz of San Juan to remain in the discharge of his duty during the investigation of the present case, and I trust that you will not find cause to disapprove the terms in which I have addressed his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Consul Reade to the Civil Governor of Huelva.

(Translation.) *September* 1, 1871.

ON the occasion of my visit to Huelva, during the past month, I came to an understanding with the executive and judicial authorities of the Province relative to a sum of 2,000 reals vellon which I was to place at the disposal of the Commandant of the Guardia Civil, and an advertisement which was to appear in the "Boletin Oficial" of the Province, to the effect that that sum would be given as a reward to any person who might furnish such information as would lead to the apprehension of the assassin of the British subject, Mr. J. F. Robert, who died at San Juan del Puerto on the 3rd of July last,

From a despatch which Don Eduardo Diaz, the British Vice-Consul, has

addressed me, it would appear that your Excellency does not think the Commandant of the Guardia Civil is justified in accepting such a charge. Respecting, as I of course do, your Excellency's opinion, as well as convinced that that opinion is founded on motives that do you honour, it is nevertheless my duty to point out that, by refusing to comply with the arrangement already agreed upon, the object we have in view (namely, the capture of the assassin) will probably be defeated—an object, which not only concerns the vindication of the peace and security of the public in general, but is especially important to this Consulate, which is entrusted with the duty of taking part in the prosecution of the case, and consequently bound to cede no point until the said assassin shall have been brought to justice.

However disagreeable therefore the task may be to me, I must hold whomsoever it doth or shall concern hereby responsible for the non-execution of the plan agreed upon for the apprehension of the assassin, unless other and more efficacious measures give the result which we expected so confidently to attain.

I beg furthermore, and with becoming respect, to acquaint your Excellency that information has reached me with regard to the present case which leads me to apprehend that the ends of justice will be frustrated, in spite of the good wishes and uprightness of the higher authorities of the Province. From what I hear, the assassin is even to-day in concealment at San Juan del Puerto or in its immediate neighbourhood. In order to search any dwelling where he may be supposed to be hidden, an order from the Juez de Paz is, according to law, necessary, and as at San Juan del Puerto, the Juez de Paz, as well as the Escribano, is, it appears, a relative of the culprit, it is natural to suppose, without inference of blame to anybody, that before any search of domicile can be effected, under existing circumstances, facilities will have been afforded for the criminal's escape from any particular hiding place.

I trust your Excellency will excuse my calling your attention so particularly to these matters, but, aware as I am of the great efforts which are being made by people of position and influence with a view to enable the delinquents to evade the consequences of their crime, I have deemed it only right to recur to your Excellency, relying with confidence on the spirit of justice with which you are animated and your known desire to see expunged the stain that has fallen upon a district where so many foreigners reside, and where, if this crime remain unpunished, it will henceforth be considered dangerous for peaceful and honourable people to dwell.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 22.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 11.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, September* 4, 1871.

ON the 8th of July I had the honour to report to your Lordship's office, as well as to Her Majesty's Legation at Madrid, the fact that a British subject, named Mr. James Frederick Robert, had been assassinated at San Juan del Puerto, a small town in the neighbourhood of Huelva, and that it was my intention to proceed to the latter place for the purpose of adopting whatever measures it might be necessary to take, with a view to ensure that the case should be duly inquired into and adjudicated.

Having visited Huelva on two occasions subsequently to the date of my former despatch, and, by personal interviews with the local authorities at that place, as well as by reference to the higher functionaries at Madrid, through the channel of Her Majesty's Legation, with which I have been in constant communication on the subject, exhausted every means in my power to obtain redress, I regret to say that very little progress has so far been made in the prosecution of the action, and that, while, on the one hand, serious obstacles have arisen to thwart the ends of justice, scarcely any disposition is manifested by this Government to come to a definitive settlement of the affair.

As further particulars than those hitherto supplied to your Lordship may possibly be required, I must beg, before stating the course of procedure which I have felt it my duty to pursue, to place before your Lordship a concise summary of the circumstances under which the outrage was committed and some of the incidents consequent thereto.

Mr. Robert, the murdered man, was station-master of the Buitron railway terminus at San Juan del Puerto, and generally esteemed as being a respectable and inoffensive person. On two occasions prior to that on which the outrage took place, he was assaulted in a brutal and cowardly manner: once during the night of the 24th of June, on the occasion of an evening party given at his residence, when, on opening the door of his house to see who had been knocking at it from outside, he received a severe blow on the face from an unknown hand; and, a second time, on the evening of the 30th of the same month, while walking out with his wife, when he was suddenly attacked, knocked down, and otherwise ill-treated. For these acts of violence he had given no provocation whatever, except that he had been compelled, on the occasion of the evening party above-mentioned, to cause a crowd of disorderly and uninvited people, including the man who subsequently murdered him, to be turned out of his house by the police, in order that the festivities of the evening might not be rudely put a stop to. Proceeding to Huelva, on the 1st of July, he complained to the British Vice-Consul of what had occurred, and, on the facts being duly represented to the Provincial Governor, an order was issued by the latter for the arrest and punishment of the delinquent, who, it was discovered, was Juan Fernandez y Beltran, a son of the second Alcalde of San Juan del Puerto, and for the customary steps to be taken to prevent a repetition of the violence. On the following morning, at about 9 o'clock, deceased was informed by one of his neighbours that his assailant (whom he did not even know by sight) was passing along the street driving a cart, and, being naturally anxious to recognize his enemy, so that he might be upon his guard against him in future, he went out to see him. Juan's father, the second Alcalde, better known in that part of the country by the sobriquet of "Zacarias," who happened to be in the street at the time, ran up to deceased, and, laying hold of him by the collar, pulled him down to the ground, and, with the assistance of several others (most of them members of his own family) beat and wounded him in a very brutal manner. On seeing what was going on, Juan stopped his cart, jumped down, and, rushing up to the spot where the Englishman was lying, drew his "nabaja" (clasp-knife) and buried it in his stomach. Another son of the Alcalde, the assassin's mother, and a young man called Villegas are reported to have taken part in the outrage, the first and last belabouring him with sticks, and the woman, who is described as being a dame of more than ordinary proportions, jumping upon deceased and stamping upon his chest with her feet. It is furthermore asserted that, when deceased was at length abandoned by the parties above-mentioned, he endeavoured to rise, and was again struck to the ground by an uncle of the assassin named Reyes. Hundreds of people appear to have witnessed the outrage, but not one of them attempted to interfere or assist deceased after his assailants had left him. After a while he was allowed to get up and proceed to his house, and a doctor, the only one in the place, was immediately called in to see him and attend to the injuries he had received. Shortly afterwards, while he was still under the charge of the doctor, the Juez de Paz (a stipendiary magistrate) and Escribano (town clerk or notary) of the place, came to the house to take his declaration with regard to what had occurred; but, on being informed by the medical man that the patient was not, at that moment, able to make a statement, they noted all that he (the doctor) declared he had heard the wounded man say, and, without seeing the latter, or even entering his room, went away. This statement, which represented deceased to have declared that he had been stabbed by Juan Fernandez, but that he himself had, on the other hand, attacked his antagonist with a sword-stick, was subsequently put in by the Juez de Paz, at the inquiry instituted by the Juez de Primera Instancia of Huelva. The doctor furthermore declared, on his own account, that the knife wound was "leve" or unimportant, but that he had remarked signs of inflammation of the lungs, and, in consequence of this declaration, no orders were given for the immediate arrest of the murderer. Later in the day deceased called together some of his friends, and caused one of them to put down in writing a short statement which he made of all that had in reality taken place, and, after signing it in their presence, sent it to the Vice-Consul at Huelva, who legalized it and delivered it to the presiding Judge. During the evening of the day following that on which the third and fatal outrage took place, Mr. Robert died, and, an order being issued for the arrest of the assassin, it was found that the latter had disappeared. On a *post-mortem* examination of the body being held by two medical men of Huelva, the fatal character of the knife wound was satisfactorily established (the deposition of the first doctor called in having been misrepresented to me in the

first instance, it was erroneously recorded in my former report of the 8th of July as being consequent, instead of preliminary, to the *post-mortem* examination).

Proceeding to Huelva on the 9th of July, I found that, in order to initiate a prompt and vigorous prosecution of the case, the Vice-Consul had, upon his own responsibility, already named a procurator to represent the interests of the bereaved family, as well as retained an able and trustworthy lawyer to counsel and protect the action of the plaintiffs. As neither the widow nor any other relative of the deceased was in a position to assume all the responsibilities of the trial, and I was at the same time assured and convinced that, unless the charge of the prosecution were undertaken by the Consulate, little more than a nominal investigation would have taken place, resulting in the certain escape of the guilty parties, and a state of things which would have been alike prejudicial to our national prestige and to the general interests of the whole British community of that district. I did not hesitate to confirm what Mr. Diaz had done, relieving him at once from the responsibility he had incurred, and reported the circumstance to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires. I trust that my conduct, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, will have met your Lordship's approval, and that I may be provided with an authority to charge all the legal expenses so incurred by me to the account of Her Majesty's Government. The commencement of an active course of judicial procedure, accompanied by the arrest and imprisonment of the assassin's father and another accomplice, was the immediate consequence of the Consular interposition; and, notwithstanding the obstinate aversion of Spaniards to appear as witnesses in a case of this nature, the fear of consequences generally inspired by the influential position and unscrupulous character of the murderer's family, and various other obstacles of a serious nature, I am happy to add that evidence ensuring the condemnation of the two prisoners above mentioned was at the same time elicited.

Before leaving Huelva, on the 11th of July, I reported to Her Majesty's Legation all the information I had acquired regarding this distressing affair, and suggested that the Ministers of Gobernacion and Gracia y Justicia might be moved to stimulate their respective representatives at Huelva to increased exertions in the pursuit of the ends required; and I have no doubt it is to the corresponding representations of Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at the Capital that our efforts to obtain justice have not been completely frustrated.

Finding that little progress was being made in the prosecution of the affair, and apprehensive of fresh difficulties, I proceeded to Huelva a second time, *i.e.*, on the 3rd of the past month, and on the 5th reported to Her Majesty's Legation, in a letter, of an extract of which a copy is herewith inclosed, that matters had become seriously complicated, in consequence of the want of energy and mistaken leniency of the presiding Judge, the lamentable interest evinced by certain influential personages on behalf of the assassin's family, and other causes; and, while narrating some further steps which it became my duty to take, recommended if such an arrangement were feasible, the appointment of a Special Commissioner to supersede the Judge to whom I have above referred.

From the annexed copy of two further communications I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires,* it will be seen that the judicial procedure continues unsatisfactory; that a reward which I had, with the sanction of the local authorities, offered for the apprehension of the assassin had been returned to me by the same authorities; that, although the assassin is known to be concealed in the neighbourhood of the locality where the murder was committed, efficacious means are not adopted for his capture, and that I had, under the circumstances, addressed a formal communication to the Governor of the Province of Huelva, holding him responsible for the consequences of his rejection of the reward I had, as above stated, offered for any information that might lead to the apprehension of the murderer.

I have now, my Lord, only to add an expression of the hope, which, notwithstanding the present unfavourable aspect of the case and the more than ordinary difficulties with which it has from the first been surrounded, I cannot help entertaining that justice will ultimately be done. Whether, however, that expectation be realized or not, I trust your Lordship will consider that, so far as this Consulate and the Vice-Consulate at Huelva are concerned, no efforts have been wanting on our part to bring the matter to an early and satisfactory conclusion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

* Inclosure 1 in No. 19, and Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Consul Reade to Mr. Ffrench.

(Extract.) *August* 5, 1871.

I ARRIVED here yesterday, and have since devoted myself especially to the San Juan del Puerto affair, which, I regret to say, does not progress so satisfactorily as I was led from the first to anticipate.

Since my visit to this place three weeks ago, matters have materially changed, and their aspect, at the present moment, is far from encouraging.

I do not mean by this that anything has occurred to alter the good opinion I originally expressed with regard to the good intentions and general activity of the authorities. I allude more particularly to the continued determination of the witnesses to withhold their testimony; to the want of decision, excessive lenience, and, I fear sometimes, erroneous procedure of the presiding Judge, as well as to the very lamentable and extraordinary exertions which are being made by some of the most influential personages of the Province to save the assassin's family from the consequences of their criminal acts. With regard to the Judge, I must repeat that he is, in my opinion, a very honourable and well-intentioned man, and I should regret very much doing anything or saying anything that might be in any way calculated to hurt his feelings. I feel, however, it is my duty to remark (and I would beg to do so in the strictest confidence) that his abilities or physical capacity are not equal to the task that is imposed on him. He is an old man, and, at his time of life, much cannot be expected from him. When the murder took place, he ought to have proceeded at once to the spot, and instituted his *sumario* (*procès-verbal*) there. He did not, however, go to San Juan until the 9th ultimo, or a week after the occurrence, by which time, under the guidance of the Juez de Paz of that town, the action of the opposition was so prepared and organized, that our subsequent efforts to obtain any advantage from the testimony of eye-witnesses failed most signally. After a short stay at San Juan, the Judge returned to Huelva, and he has had consequently to summon all witnesses through the Juez de Paz of the former place, who, besides being a near relative of the assassin (first cousin; his "escribano" being, at the same time, a half-brother of the murderer's father), has given such unequivocal proofs of collusion with the parties implicated in this case, Men who actually declared they were present with the crowd that witnessed the occurrence, and admitted also that they were personally acquainted with every man, women, and child of the place, have been allowed to deny with impunity, their having been able to recognize any one of that crowd; while others, who contradicted themselves or were unable to explain what they meant by some important expressions they had used, such as that the deceased "assumed a menacing attitude," &c., were in like manner dismissed.

Having to return to Cadiz this afternoon I have little more to report to-day. I may, however, add that, at my suggestion, the whole of Zaccarias' property, which consists principally of freehold property, and is estimated at from 8,000 to 10,000 dollars, instead of 2,000 dollars, which the Judge had previously sequestered, has been embargoed, for the purpose of covering costs of the trial and pension to the deceased's widow and children; and Zaccarias himself, who, till yesterday, was put up in a room of the prison, whence he was enabled, by means of a grated window, to communicate with parties implicated or otherwise interested in the present affair, reduced to solitary confinement.

The assassin being still at large I have offered, after consultation with my legal advisers and the local authorities, a reward of 100 dollars to any one who may give information of a nature to lead to his capture; and I trust that this, as well as all the other measures I have taken in this disagreeable affair, will meet with your approval, and that of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to Consul Reade.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1871.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 4th instant, reporting upon the late assassination near Huelva of a British subject named James Robert, and I have

to convey to you my entire approval of the steps which you have taken to bring the murderers and their accomplices to justice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 15, 1871.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 7th instant, as well as a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, relative to the murder of James Robert, a British subject at Huelva, and I have to instruct you to address an official note to the Spanish Minister, stating that being now in possession of the full particulars of the case, Her Majesty's Government have directed you to call upon the Spanish Government in the most formal manner to omit no step that they can legally have recourse to to ensure the capture of the murderer and his accomplices, and his trial by an impartial tribunal, the President and members of which shall be unconnected with and unbiassed by local influence.

You will add that Her Majesty's Government does not doubt that the Spanish Government would not tolerate a miscarriage of justice in such a flagrant case.

I am, &c,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Mr. Ffrench to Earl Granville.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord, *San Ildefonso, September* 15, 1871.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, I have the honour to state that I have this day received a private letter from Señor Montero Riaz, in which his Excellency informs me that he has given orders to the judicial authorities at San Juan del Puerto to use their utmost zeal and activity in the criminal proceedings against the assassins of James Robert, giving orders at the same time that the Municipal Judge of that place should be placed under the strictest vigilance, and, if such a course be found necessary, be withdrawn from his post.

His Excellency has also been in communication with the Minister of the Interior, in order that the Alcalde of San Juan del Puerto may equally be kept under supervision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. PERCY FFRENCH.

No. 26.

Mr. Ffrench to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *San Ildefonso, September* 18, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, and translations of the correspondence between Mr. Reade and Civil Governor of Cadiz with reference to the reward to be offered for the discovery of the supposed murderer of Mr. James Robert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. PERCY FFRENCH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Consul Reade to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Cadiz, September* 13, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a reply which I have received from the Governor of Huelva to the communication which, as

mentioned in my despatch of the 2nd instant, I addressed to his Excellency in consequence of his refusal to allow a reward I had, with the sanction of the Provincial Authorities, offered for information which might lead to the capture of Mr. Robert's murderer, to be paid through the medium of the Guardia Civil.

The Governor, as you will perceive, suggests that the reward should be offered through the medium of the Huelva Tribunal, and that, if the Judge consents to the arrangement, the requisite notice can appear in the "Boletin Official" of the province.

Acting upon the Governor's suggestion, I have not failed to let him know, at the same time, that the new arrangement is very different from the original one, as it is a well known fact that Spaniards will generally rely on the good faith of the Guardia Civil, when they do not place the same confidence in anybody else.

Inclosed is a translation of my rejoinder.

I am, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

The Civil Governor of Huelva to Consul Reade.

(Translation.) *Huelva, September 5*, 1871.

ALTHOUGH it is only a few days ago that I took possession of the post of Civil Governor of this Province, I am duly informed of the deplorable outrage perpetrated at San Juan del Puerto on the person of the unfortunate British subject Mr. Robert, and to the clearing up of the affair, and the accomplishment of the capture of the presumed criminal, I have from the first devoted my especial care. I am not surprised, therefore, at your "oficio" of the 1st instant, nor am I displeased at my attention being called to the nature and importance of a case so grave, in which, if your nation is therein interested, the Spanish Government is no less so, desiring as the latter does to repress with a strong hand all crimes committed in this country, and more especially those which are perpetrated upon the persons of foreigners, for the security of whose lives and property the Government wishes to afford the most ample guarantees.

The measures taken by the authorities of this province, the zeal displayed by my worthy predecessor, the assiduity of the Juez de Primera Instanciá, demonstrated by the way in which the *procès-verbal* for the discovery of the crime is being effected, and the enquiries instituted by the Guardia Civil, with a view to the capture of the presumed assassin, for whose arrest a warrant has been issued, are the best proofs of the good intentions of the Government—intentions which are alike shared by its delegates.

Authorities who act in this manner, as you will readily comprehend, cannot, without suffering a diminution of their personal dignity, admit officially of extraneous aid, for the purpose of assisting them in their incessant procedure; and, if I were to accept the 2,000 reals you offer as a reward to the person who may give information that would lead to the apprehension of the assassin, it would be tantamount to a confession on my part of my own incompetence, and this feeling I am very far from entertaining. That judicial authority is not impotent which has succeeded in elucidating the outrage of which the unfortunate Mr. Robert was the victim, nor is the civil authority more so, which has placed at the disposition of the Judge a man upon whom the gravest suspicion has fallen, and which is constantly on the track of another party, even though the latter has, up to the present moment, managed to evade justice.

But that which the Governor cannot formally admit of, you are of yourself able, without inconvenience, to accomplish.

Offer, at once if you like, this reward, which may possibly serve as an inducement for some person to divulge the whereabouts of the criminal; let the scheme be carried out which may prove so excellent a means for arriving at the end we have both of us so much at heart; but, it ought not to be, and cannot be, the Governor of the province through whom the announcement should be made. I do not object to the measure, but disapprove only of the form in which it is proposed to be carried into execution.

Make known your plan to the Court, and, if it is admitted, as I presume it would be, notice of it shall be immediately inserted in the "Boletin Oficial" of my province.

If you relinquish this proposition, or do not wish to give effect to it as appearing inadmissible, the Superior Civil Authority of this Province cannot assume the responsibility you conditionally attribute to it, and, while repelling it, has the honour to assure you that it will redouble its efforts and avail itself of all the means at its disposal for the purpose of apprehending the criminal, and since, as you assure me, he is protected by influential persons, my exertions will be enhanced in proportion as the opposition increases, which is being made to prevent the attainment of the most important ends of justice.

To remove some of the difficulties that are mentioned in your worthy communication I am powerless, but you, in your own name, and as the party who appears as prosecutor in this case, have that power in the fullest degree; if the Juez Municipal, and the Escribano, are relatives of the criminal, if you are inspired with reasonable grounds for suspecting partiality, the laws afford means for excluding them; put these means to the test by addressing yourself to the Judge who is trying the cause, but, as for the Governor, he has no right to interfere in matters that affect private interests, and cannot arrogate to himself powers that are not conferred upon him by law.

Rely upon the rectitude of my character, and be assured of my good wishes, of my indefatigable zeal—a zeal which is in the present instance excited by the importance of the affair—by the high consideration with which I am inspired for the nation you so worthily represent, and by what is due to your own personal qualities.

Any remarks you may communicate to me will be listened to with deference, and if by their help, or through whatever considerations may occur to myself, I may succeed in giving full satisfaction to the requirements of justice, I shall have accomplished one of my most cherished aspirations.

God preserve, &c. (Signed) JOAQUIN ROSSELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

Consul Reade to the Civil Governor of Huelva.

(Translation.) *September* 9, 1871.

I HAVE received your Excellency's very courteous oficio of the 5th instant, and thank you for its contents.

The arrangement which your Excellency proposes to me is, of course, accepted, and I accordingly instruct the British Vice-Consul at Huelva to take whatever measures may be necessary for getting the offer to remunerate any person who may furnish information that would lead to the apprehension of Mr. Robert's murderer, advertised in the "Boletin Official" of the Province.

Your Excellency will, however, understand that this arrangement differs materially from what had been decided upon, with the sanction of the Provincial Authorities, and what, for reasons which I respect, you do not think it would be convenient to carry into effect.

Permit me to observe, in conclusion, that, whether owing to my ignorance of Spanish legislation or not, I cannot comprehend why the unfortunate widow of Mr. Robert, or myself, who, for reasons of a special nature, have undertaken the prosecution of this cause, should be considered to be more deeply concerned in the affair than the authorities of this great country, who are naturally those first called upon to bring matters to light, and must really feel a particular interest in the due punishment of such a crime.

I reiterate my sincere acknowledgments for the activity and zeal with which you have taken up this case, and for the flattering terms in which you have been pleased to allude to me.

God preserve, &c. (Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 27.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 22.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, September* 13, 1871.

HAVING this day addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid a despatch wherewith I transmitted translation of the Governor of Huelva's

reply to the letter which, as stated in my despatch of the 4th instant, I had addressed to his Excellency with reference to his refusal to allow a reward I had, with the sanction of the local Authorities, offered for information that might lead to the apprehension of Mr. Robert's murderer, to be paid through the medium of the Guardia Civil, as well as a copy of my rejoinder to that communication, I have the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch to Mr. Ffrench,* for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 28.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 21.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, September* 15, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a further despatch which I this day addressed to Her Majesty's Legation at Madrid, with reference to the unsatisfactory state of the judicial proceedings in the case of the Englishman murdered at San Juan del Puerto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Consul Reade to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Cadiz, September* 15, 1871.

THE British Vice-Consul at Huelva, writing under date the 13th instant, reports the following extraordinary circumstances in connection with the judicial proceedings of the Robert murder case.

Eight individuals, residents of San Juan del Puerto, who had been named by Admiral Don Luis Pinson as having been present at the assassination, on being summoned to appear before the Judge, presented themselves at the Tribunal, accompanied by a crowd of people from the same place, and declared not only that the Admiral's allegations were unfounded, but that they had never even heard of the Englishman's death!

M. Diaz further informs me that a sergeant of the Guardia Civil, who had engaged to discover and apprehend the assassin, proceeded some nights ago in disguise to one of the latter's known haunts; that, having been detected by some of the fugitive's friends, he was closely followed by them, and a threat circulated that, if he persisted in his object, his life would be taken, and that an order was thereupon given by his Commanding Officer, whereby he was obliged to abandon the attempt, and in future move about only in the company of a couple of his comrades duly armed.

I am again assured that Juan Fernandez, the murderer, is still in concealment at San Juan del Puerto. If this be the case, and the force of the Guardia Civil of the locality insufficient to effect his apprehension,—if, too, owing to the tenor of 1st Article of the Constitution, the limited powers of the Judicial and Executive Authorities, and other circumstances, the difficulties of the capture are materially enhanced, it will remain for consideration whether, in view of the bad character for which the inhabitants of that particular district have long acquired an unenviable notoriety, and their general conduct on the present occasion, as well as the atrocious nature of the murder, and the necessity of an exemplary punishment some more special or summary means should now be devised for dealing with the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

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* Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

No. 29.

Mr. Ffrench to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 23.)

My Lord, *San Ildefonso, September* 19, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a despatch from Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz containing a statement of the legal expenses which he has incurred in connection with the James Robert's murder case, and humbly to recommend the same to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. PERCY FFRENCH.

No. 30.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received September* 23.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, September* 16, 1871.

WITH reference to my despatches dated respectively the 8th of July and the 4th, 13th, and 15th instant, relative to the judicial investigation of the circumstances under which a British subject named James Frederick Robert was murdered, on the 2nd of July last, at San Juan del Puerto, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed copy and translation of an account with which I have been furnished of the legal charges incurred by this Consulate in connection with the above-mentioned judicial proceedings, up to the end of August last.

Having explained, in my correspondence with your Lordship's office, as well as with Her Majesty's Legation at Madrid, the necessity under which I found myself placed of assisting the deceased's family in prosecuting the case, and with that object of retaining the services of an able and trustworthy lawyer, I trust I shall be honoured with an authority from your Lordship to charge the expenses so incurred to the account of Her Majesty's Government.

If, my Lord, the explanations I have both directly and through Her Majesty's Legation given on this head should be found insufficient or unsatisfactory, I would beg respectfully to refer to a passage of the Governor of Huelva's last communication, which I hereinbelow transcribe, for a confirmation of the fact that an essential part of the proceedings necessary to secure the attainment of simple justice cannot take place at the instance of the Executive authorities, but only through the instrumentality of those who represent the interests of the plaintiff. The said passage runs as follows:—

"To remove some of the difficulties that are mentioned in your worthy communication I am powerless; but you, in your own name, and as the party who appears as prosecutor in this case, have that power in the fullest degree; if the Juez Municipal and the Escribano are relatives of the criminal—if you are inspired with reasonable grounds for suspecting partiality—the laws afford the means for excluding them: put these means to the test by addressing yourself to the Judge who is trying the cause; but as for the Governor, he has no right to interfere in matters that affect private interests, and cannot arrogate to himself powers that are not conferred upon him by law."

I have the honour furthermore to solicit your Lordship's permission to draw upon Her Majesty's Government for the sum of 7*l.* sterling, on account of the personal expenditure incurred by me on the occasion of the two visits which, as reported in my former correspondence, it became my duty to pay to Huelva, for the purpose of concerting with the authorities and other interested parties the measures necessary for the due prosecution of the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 31.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received September 25.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, September 19, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to state, with reference to my former despatches relative to the judicial proceedings in the case of the San Juan del Puerto murder, that information has reached me from the British Vice-Consul at Huelva to the following effect, viz. :—

That Don Antonio Leon, the "Magistrado," or President, of the "Audiencia," or High Court, of Seville, arrived at that port on the 14th instant, charged with a special mission in connection with the judicial inquiry above mentioned; that he proceeded on the following day to San Juan del Puerto, accompanied by his subordinate functionary, the Juez de Primera Instancia of Huelva, the Escribanos, and some other officials of their respective Courts, the plaintiff's counsel and procurator, and a strong detachment of the Guardia Civil; and that the proceedings of the "sumario," or first judicial inquiry, have since been taken formally in hand by the Magistrado himself.

The appointment of this Special Commissioner and the remarkable proof it affords of a sincere determination on the part of the Spanish Government to deal with the case by vigorous as well as legal means, will, I am sure, be duly appreciated by the Government of Her Majesty.

An occurence so rare, and so almost without precedent as the official action of the Magistrado outside the precincts of his own Court-house at Seville, and the importance which, as must be manifest to everybody, the Spanish Government attaches to the object of his present mission, cannot, in my opinion, fail to bring about a complete change in the hitherto unfavourable aspect of the case, and facilitate, if not immediately seeure, the reparation which Her Majesty's Government has from the first so persistently demanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 32.

Mr. Ffrench to Earl Granville.—(Received September 30.)

My Lord, *San Ildefonso, September 22, 1871.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship translation of a communication which has been sent to me by the Minister of Grace and Justice, giving a summary account of the results obtained in the preliminary examination into the circumstances attending the murder of the late James Robert.

I have this day received your Lordship's despatch of the 15th instant, instructing me to call upon the Spanish Government in the most formal manner to omit no legal steps to ensure the capture and trial of the murderer.

Before embodying this despatch in the form of an official note, I permit myself to bring to your Lordship's recollection the fact that I have already addressed two notes to General Cordova, couched in the same terms as those contained in the above-mentioned despatch, as well as being in constant private communication with the Minister of Grace and Justice. It is so short a time since I sent the second note to General Cordova that your Lordship may, perhaps, think it advisable that I should allow a short time to elapse before addressing a third one; but in this, as in all things, I stand advised by your Lordship's better judgment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. PERCY FFRENCH.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Summary Account of the results obtained in the Preliminary Examination into the circumstances attending the Murder of the late James Robert.

(Translation.) *Office of the Fiscal in Seville, Huelva, August 12, 1871.*

IN obedience to the order to send an account of the proceedings now being taken in this district with reference to the violent death of the British subject James

Robert, and to state the result of the "sumario" (preliminary inquiry), it is my duty to inform you that the unfortunate man having been wounded on the morning of the 2nd of last July, in the Calle Real of San Juan del Puerto, the Municipal Judge of that place began on the same day to make the preliminary inquiries, reporting to his superior the case in such terms that the gravity and importance thereof could not have been suspected.

On the 4th of the same month the depositions were received, together with a communication from the above-named authority, stating that the wounded man had died the preceding day, in view of which had been taken the measures which the Judge thought most conducive to the thorough investigation of the crime and the capture of the supposed criminals, such as, first, the presence in this capital of all those witnesses who had given their depositions before the Municipal Judge of San Juan; secondly, the departure for that place of the Doctors Don Carlos Cherizola and Don Manuel Seras, for the purpose of making the *post-mortem* examination; thirdly, the interment in some decent place of the deceased, who, being a Protestant, could not be buried in the Catholic cemetery; fourthly, the placing in prison by the civil guard of the Second Alcalde Don Manuel Fernandez (*alias* Zacarias), and of his son Juan, the warrant for which was duly made out; and, fifthly, the addressing a communication to the Governor of the Province, in order that he might by those means which the administrative power has at its disposal take steps for the arrest of the criminals, in the very probable event of their having quitted the place where the crime was committed.

Unfortunately all these measures have not given the desired result. The Second Alcalde gave himself up voluntarily, on the 5th of July, to the Governor of the Province, who immediately placed him at the disposal of the Judge; and when the warrant for his imprisonment was shown to the Second Alcalde, he opposed its being carried into execution within the legal period, and the Judge, in accordance with the dictamen of the Fiscal, and the petition of the deceased's widow, who had appeared in the case, and made her complaint in due form, refused to liberate him. However, up to the present time all the efforts for the capture of Juan Fernandez have been fruitless. Under the idea that he may have passed the Portuguese frontier, his extradition through the diplomatic channel has been demanded in the form prescribed by Treaty.

On the same day orders were given for the appearance at this Court of the First Alcalde and Municipal Judge of San Juan, in order that they might be examined as to the events which have caused these proceedings; and on the 7th, at the instigation of the private prosecutrix and of the Fiscal, the Court began its sittings in that town, pursuing its functions without interruption from 9 P.M. until 11 A.M. of the next day, and since then its sittings have continued to be occupied by this case, as the importance thereof demands, the Promoter Fiscal, who signs the present, taking part in those investigations which, in his opinion, are most important.

Having made the foregoing statements, in order that you may, if you think proper, acquaint the Minister of Grace and Justice with the conduct observed in this case by the judicial authorities of Huelva, I will proceed to give an abstract of the results of the "Sumario," which already amount to 319 folios, both as regards the fact of the crime and the circumstances attending its perpetration, and as regards the guilt of those whom public opinion points out as the authors or accomplices. It appears from the "Sumario," folio 2, that the wounded man made declaration before the Municipal Judge, on the 2nd of July, with regard to the crime as follows:—In consequence of two blows in the face which a son of Zacarias had given him on the 30th of June, he, the deceased, told a boy on the morning of the 2nd of the following month, when he was in the house of Don Manuel Foscano, in the Calle Real, to let him know if the son of Zacarias should pass by, in order that he might recognize him, and be on his guard against him. Accordingly, being apprised of his passing, Mr. Robert went out in search of him, and on returning, having effected his purpose, his neck was seized from behind by the father of Zacarias, and he was thrown to the ground. In the next place, seeing the son approach with an open knife in his hand, he drew a sword-stick which he had with him, but this weapon was snatched away by some person unknown, and he received the wound from which he was then suffering, and this in the presence of many inhabitants of the village.

The secretary certifies that Mr. Robert was unable to sign this declaration, but his signature appears in a letter, bearing date of the 30th of June, which he

must have written the same day, *i.e.*, July 2, to the British Vice-Consul in Huelva, for although this letter is not (thus) dated, the context leads to this inference, and in it he refers to what had happened, with some variations :—

"Don James Robert, the same who yesterday, July 1, informed you of an assault made upon him, as you are already aware, states that the individual of whom he complained, when I (*sic*) was in the street going towards home, the father of the above-named came, and seizing me from behind, threw me to the ground. Immediately the son, who is the person of whom I spoke to you, came up with a weapon in his hand, and wounded me in the belly while I was on the ground. I make this communication to you in order that the aggressor may meet with the punishment which he deserves, and I doubt not that you will give it your attention. I am in bed, as the wound is serious.

(Signed) "James Robert."

Don José Foscano, and Juan Quintero, the youth who told Robert when the son of Zacarias was passing in the Calle Real, having been called, declared both of them that they were not present when the deceased was wounded.

The above letter was written by Don Eulogio Gonzalez Delgado, inhabitant of Valverde, who, in folio 185, states that he was in San Juan on the day of the occurrence on business, and that being a friend of Robert, he went to his house at 7 A.M., and after talking for a short time, Robert left him to buy some fish, the declarant remaining with his wife. When a considerable time had elapsed Robert returned half naked, without hat or stick, and with his coat torn to pieces; that he told his wife not to be alarmed, and went to bed, the declarant seeing that his shirt was marked with blood. The deponent then went to the railway to send a telegram to Figueros for the doctor of the Buitron Company, and on returning to the house of Robert he saw there the Municipal Judge, his secretary, who was writing, and the doctor, whom he heard say that the wound was of a serious nature; that between 11 and 12 Robert requested him to write to the Vice-Consul, which he did at the dictation of the former, who signed it, being the same letter which was shown to the witness.

The widow of Robert deposed that on the 24th of June the deponent had a party at her house to celebrate the *fête* of San Juan, and her husband was compelled to seek the assistance of the Guardia Civil in order to prevent Juan Fernandez and other young men of the place from entering uninvited, as they had endeavoured to do; that they then left, Juan Fernandez returning shortly afterwards, and knocking at the door, struck her husband in the face when he went to open; that on the night of the 30th of the same month, when deponent was coming home with her husband, the latter was again attacked by Juan Fernandez with kicks and blows, being taken away by some persons who came up, amongst whom the deponent recognized Zacarias, the father of the aggressor, the Municipal Judge, and others; and, finally, that on the 2nd of July (Sunday) her husband went out at 8 A.M. to buy some fish, and returned at 10, pale, without hat or stick, and with his coat torn to pieces, saying in a weak voice, "Don't mind; it's nothing;" that she immediately sent for the doctor; and that in the night, when the latter inquired of Robert if he had been subjected to any ill-usage besides the wound, he replied that the wife of Manuel Fernandez had jumped on his chest and taken away his stick; and that the deponent had heard it publicly asserted that a certain Manuel Reyes, uncle of Zacarias, and a brother of Juan Fernandez, had also maltreated her husband. The occurrences preceding those which occasioned the death of Robert are proved by the evidence of several persons who have deposed to the same, and they are referred to in a communication from the British Vice-Consul to the Governor of the Province, which is to be found in the documents belonging to the case.

As regards the principal fact, the accused, Don Manuel Fernandez, states that when his sons Juan and Manuel were passing through the Calle Real with a cart laden with grain, and when he went to tell them what they had got to do, he saw come out of the house of Don José Foscano a stranger, who, approaching rapidly his son Juan, drew a sword-stick, as though to attack him; that in the next place the deponent seized him by the jacket, and took away his arm, which he gave to Albeiter, who came up at that moment, and told his sons to go off to the threshing-floor. In continuation, he stated that in struggling with the Englishman the latter fell to the ground, the deponent being obliged to fall on his knees, but that no one then approached, not even his son Juan, although the cart stopped as long as the

struggle lasted, and that he does not know who wounded the Englishman, and that the Sacristan, Blas Villegas, and José Tafalle, could depose to the truth of what he had stated. The first of these said that on arriving at the scene of the occurrence he saw that Don Manuel Fernandez gave the sword-stick to the farrier; and the second, that he saw the Englishman and the Alcalde get up off the ground; and that afterwards he saw the farrier had a sword-stick in his possession.

The farrier, Miguel Gonzalez, declared that he was seated at the door of the house of Dionisio Pulido, in the Calle Real, and that he saw that when Juan Fernandez was passing with a cart of grain a stranger came up to him and drew a sword-stick with a broad blade, but at the same moment Don Manuel Fernandez came up and seized the stranger by the wrist and coat-tail, telling his son to go off; that the two struggled, and the stranger fell; that the deponent took possession of the sword-stick which Don Manuel Fernandez had before held; that he does not know who wounded the Englishman, for he did not see that any one of those present carried arms, and that he does not know their names, as he had lived but a short time in the place. Dionisio Pulido, Felipe Pulido, and José Cuevas agree as to the truth of the foregoing, with this difference, however, that the third in his evidence stated that the Englishan only made a gesture of drawing the sword-stick; and the first, after having stated in his previous evidence that he drew the sword-stick, and in his second that he threatened Juan Fernandez with it, in the last examination solely stated that Robert made a gesture of drawing it, with this peculiarity, which appears in the documents, that when a sword-stick was given to this witness, in order that he might show what he had seen Roberts do, he could not do so, in spite of the explanations given him.

José Villegas, as another of the witnesses present, also affirmed that Don Manuel Fernandez seized the deceased by the collar when he was in the act of making gestures of drawing the sword-stick, and after the two fell to the ground he (the deceased ?) drew it, but that he saw no more, owing to the crowd, and he could not identify any of those who came up, although born in the place and acquainted with all the inhabitants. Afterwards, when cross-examined, he confessed that when the Englishman got up he (the deponent) struck him twice with the cane of the sword-stick, which was crushed by the crowd having trod upon it, so that it broke upon his back, but he persisted that he did not see who wounded Robert, and that he did not recognize any of those who were present. The Judge immediately ordered this witness to be imprisoned, he being, according to his own account, seventeen years of age.

On the inhabitants of the neighbouring houses being called, none gave any details of the occurrence or circumstances attending it; some excusing themselves on the ground of the crowd, others said that they were absent, and others that, as they were not interested in the quarrel, they did not take the trouble to find out what was the cause or the result of the same.

The declaration of the resident doctor of San Juan del Puerto, Don Juan Miguel Roberto, and the statements afterwards made, do not agree well with the results of the *post-mortem* examination; and this gives occasion for an extract of the steps taken in consequence, in order that an exact idea may be formed of this trial. In the declaration it is stated that it was found on examination that Robert was suffering from an incised wound, situated in the middle of the left side of the belly, a little more than an inch in length, piercing the skin, the cellular tissue, and part of the transverse muscle, not for the present showing serious symptoms.

On the next day, July 3rd, the doctor states that Robert was worse, and the latter stated during his visit that both before and after receiving the wound he had been struck on the head and back, and that those who had attacked him had jumped on his chest, and that, finally, he had received many blows, notwithstanding which the deponent could find no exterior marks on the body of the deceased.

On the afternoon of the same day the same doctor declared that Robert was suffering from acute pleurisy, and at 9·23 of the 3rd July he gave information of the death of Robert. The two physicians—Don Manuel de Seras and Don Carlos Cherizola—charged by the Judge to make the *post-mortem* examination of the body, declared that at the height of the great iliac duct on the left side, about 4 centim. nearer the navel, they found a wound about 4 centim. in length and 1 centim. in breadth, of little depth, having an inward course, from left to right, and slightly tending upwards. From this they deduce that the deceased died from

an *entero peritonitis*, caused by a flow of foreign matter to which the wound gave rise, and that the thoracic symptoms observed during the last few moments of his life were the consequence of the impossibility of dilating the lungs; the doctor who attended him being led to believe in the existence of pleurisy because these symptoms are similar to those presented by acute pleurisy.

The doctor of San Juan, when making a further deposition at the desire of the Judge and private prosecutrix, said that pleuro-pneumonia might well be produced without the contusions caused by the wounds appearing outwardly; and when asked what reasons he had for declaring the wound not serious, he replied that he could not calculate the depth, inasmuch as the omentum intervening in the course of the wound, he saw nothing which indicated that this organ was pierced.

The physician of Moguer being summoned, declared that, as the doctor of San Juan mentioned in the consultation which they had that Mr. Robert's wound was not deep, as the probe did not enter into the abdominal cavity, he made his diagnosis according to the symptoms observed, and qualified the malady as acute pleurisy, since it is not the first case in which a person has died of this disease without showing material evidence of blows; adding that, in view of the wound being penetrating, and if a gastric entero-peritonitis have supervened, according to the declaration of the physicians who made the *post-mortem* examination, what he supposed in his diagnosis to be pleuro-pneumonia must have been a pulmonary congestion produced by inflammation of the visceræ.

Finally, the physicians who made the *post-mortem* examination declared that it was not extraordinary that the professor of San Juan should not have qualified the wound as penetrating to any depth, for it might well have happened that in probing the wound, either the transverse muscle, the omentum, or a clot of blood might have made an obstacle; but, on being asked by the Prosecutor Fiscal whether a wound of this nature is dangerous when the omentum is visible from without, even though this membrane do not protrude, they replied that it might be dangerous, for this membrane being visible, the wound must be of some depth.

I should also state in this Report that on the 12th of July the British Vice-Consul presented a statement, accompanied by two letters, addressed by Don Francesco Flores to the English Minister in Madrid, and to the Consul of the same nation in Andalusia, to the effect that it was owing to the first of these that the said Consul received orders to repair to this capital for the purpose of investigating the facts, and taking steps for the punishment of the guilty parties, and reporting the whole to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty.

In the first of the said letters, Don Francisco Flores informs the British Minister that in the town of San Juan del Puerto a horrible murder has been perpetrated on the person of a British subject, without the authorities having taken the trouble to prosecute, in order to reclaim from the Government of his country the punishment of the assassins who, after the perpetration of their crime, continue to walk about unmolested.

In the second, dated July 11, after having quoted the saying of one of our orators, "that in this, the classic country of physical bravery, moral bravery is often wanting," goes on to say: "I think, Señor Consul, that on the present occasion I am not doing wrong in authorizing you to make what use you think fit the letter which I have addressed to the British Minister in Madrid for the sake of country's honour."

In view of this Don Francisco Flores was called, and having appeared, stated that on the 2nd of July, he learnt that a British subject, Mr. James Robert, had been wounded; that on the next day the doctor of Moguer went to attend the wounded man, and that from him and from Dr. Antonio Reina, at 10 P.M. after his return, he knew that Mr. Robert had ceased to exist; that it was on the 4th that he wrote to the English Minister, having made an error in the date; that he had learnt from the widow that the assassins were at liberty, and that it was publicly said in Moguer that the death of Robert was owing to assassination, and that the author of the crime was a certain Zacarias.

Many other measures have been adopted at the request of the Private Prosecutor, but which I omit, as they have been without any result, so as not to give you unnecessary trouble. I must not, however, omit to say, according to the evidence of five witnesses, it was proved that Mr. Robert was in the habit of carrying a sword-stick, which was the same to which belonged the blade now in the possession of the Judge, and that, according to the confession of the defendant, Don Manuel Fernandez, the Municipal Judge, is a relation of the wife of the latter, and that the

Escribano is the son of his step-father, with whom he lived until his marriage as though they were brothers.

Such is the result so far of the Sumario. Perhaps I may have omitted to report some of the steps adopted, concerning the relative importance of which it is not at present possible to judge, but as I have to report every week to the Fiscal's office the progress made in the case, I shall then be able to notice them, and to correct any errors into which I may have fallen through haste.

(Signed) VICTORIANO HERNANDEZ.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7*, 1871.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, and I have to state to you that, under the circumstances mentioned by you, I approve your delay in acting on the instructions contained in my despatch of the 15th ultimo with reference to the murder of James Robert. I have, however, to instruct you at once to act on those instructions, should the Spanish Government allow the matter to drag for the want of a mere display of energy on their part.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Mr. Ffrench to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8.)

My Lord, *Madrid, October 4*, 1871.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, I have now the honour to inclose translation of two letters concerning the progress of the proceedings relative to the murder of Mr. Robert at San Juan del Puerto.

These letters were addressed to the Minister of Grace and Justice, and his Excellency has forwarded them to this Legation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. PERCY FFRENCH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Señor Rosaleno to the Minister of Grace and Justice.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Seville, September 23*, 1871.

I AM in receipt of your communications, and, in fulfilment of what I promised on the departure of the Commission, I now report that the same having returned and given their report in part, are very satisfied, because they attribute to their presence the proving clearly who were the authors of the cruel murder of an Englishman, the assuring of the widow's indemnity, and everything else that the Ambassador of his country could desire, with a thousand other things with reference to the proceedings to be taken against the Municipal Judge and other functionaries, of all which I believe the President will forward a detailed account.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GREGORIO ROSALENO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Señor del Campo to the Minister of Grace and Justice

(Translation.)

Sir, *Seville, September 22*, 1871.

THE Fiscal Promoter of Huelva has requested the Court to form an accusation against the Alcalde and Municipal Judge of San Juan del Puerto, and

to forward the same to this Supreme Court, in order that criminal proceedings may be taken against both for abuses committed in the discharge of their duties, with reference to the case now pending on the assassination of the British subject Robert.

The Promoter also stated that evidence is being taken with the utmost speed. When received, it shall be forwarded to the Fiscal, who will then demand that they be suspended from their functions.

The Promoter entertains hopes of the capture of the principal culprit, Juan Fernandez, according to reports received from the chief of the Civil Guard.

I am, &c.

(Signed) MANUEL GARCIA DEL CAMPO.

No. 35.

Mr. Dyett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 13.)

My Lord, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., October* 12, 1871.

WITH reference to my letter to your Lordship of the 25th August last, and to the reply you were good enough to give me on the 29th of August, I trust you will permit me to ask if Her Majesty's Government has received any answer from the Chargé d'Affaires to the letter that was sent to Madrid, inclosing a copy of my letter.

My own advices from Huelva are silent upon the subject, but the Directors of the Company are very desirous that the case may be persevered in, until the murderer or murderers of Robert shall have been brought to justice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARK DYETT, *Secretary.*

No. 36.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1871.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, requesting information on the present state of the inquiry with respect to the murder of James Robert in Spain, and I am to state to you in reply that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid reports that active proceedings are being taken to secure the arrest of the reputed murderer.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 37.

Mr. C. W. Robert to Earl Granville.—(Received November 24.)

My Lord, *Queen's Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.*

MAY I ask you the favour of letting us, the relations, know the particulars respecting the trial of the brutal murder of my poor brother, James Frederick Robert, who was assassinated at the town of San Juan del Puerto, in the Province Huelva, in the Kingdom of Spain. We wish to know if the trial has taken place; whether all the murderers are captured; if not, is it in the power or intention of the Government to enforce justice. The letters we have received from Spain have not been at all satisfactory.

I am, &c.

(Signed) C. W. ROBERT.

No. 38.

Mr. Layard to the Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

My Lord, *Madrid, November 25, 1871.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 7th ultimo, on the subject of the assassination of Mr. Robert, I have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of a despatch which I have to-day received from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, and of a communication which I have addressed in consequence to the Minister of State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD,

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Cadiz, November 22, 1871.*

WITH reference to my past correspondence on the subject of the Robert murder, I regret to learn from Mr. Vice-Consul Diaz that no further progress in the affair has been made since the late visit to Huelva of the Magistrate of the Audiencia of Seville; that the assassin Juan Fernandez is still unarrested; and that, whether it be owing to the recent changes that have taken place in the administration of the Government or not, the interest hitherto evinced by the local authorities in the prompt and satisfactory termination of the affair appears to have somewhat subsided.

The Vice-Consul furthermore relates a circumstance which I feel it is my duty to bring to your Excellency's notice. He says that a sergeant of the Guardia Civil, whom he has long known as a very active and intelligent officer, had presented himself at the Consulate Office, and declared his readiness to search for and capture the fugitive assassin, if he were only specially instructed to do so by the War Office, or by the General in command of the corps to which he belongs. The sergeant added that he felt confident of his ability to acquit himself successfully of such a charge.

Believing, from what Mr. Diaz writes, that the acceptance of this offer would result in the speedy capture of the murderer, I venture respectfully to suggest that the War Office may be moved to employ that officer on the service for which he has, as above stated, volunteered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Mr. Layard to Señor de Blas.

M. le Ministre, *Madrid, November 25, 1871.*

WITH reference to the communication which his Excellency Admiral Malcampo did me the honour of addressing to me on the 31st October, relative to the state of the proceedings in the case of the assassination of the British subject Mr. James Robert, I regret to inform your Excellency that, from official information I have received, it would appear that no further progress has been made in the investigation of this crime since the visit to Huelva of the Magistrado of the Audiencia of Seville, that the assassin, Juan Fernandez, is still at large, and that from some cause or another the interest hitherto evinced by the local authorities in the prompt and satisfactory termination of the affair appears to have somewhat subsided.

I am further informed that a sergeant of the Guardia Civil, who bears the reputation of being a very active and intelligent officer, has declared his readiness to search for and to capture the fugitive assassin, if he be specially instructed to do so by his superior authorities, and he is confident of being able to acquit himself successfully of such a charge. I would venture to suggest that application be made to the War Department for the employment of this officer.

Knowing the interest which the late Minister of Justice, Señor Montero Rios,

felt in this matter, the measures which he so promptly took, and the earnest desire which he manifested that right should be done, I am convinced that your Excellency will adopt such steps as may be desirable to excite the authorities to continue their investigations, and to bring the assassin to justice.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 39.

Earl Granville to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 29, 1871.

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the note which you addressed to the Spanish Minister of State on the 25th instant, respecting the enquiry now being made into the case of the murder of Mr. J. F. Robert, a copy of which is contained in your despatch of the 25th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 40.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. C. W. Robert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 1, 1871.

IN reply to your letter, without date, received on the 24th ultimo, I am directed by Earl Granville to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid is using his best exertions with the Spanish Government with the view of bringing to justice the persons implicated in the murder of your brother, Mr. J. F. Robert.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 41.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, December* 11, 1871.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the continuation of an account which it became my duty to transmit to your Lordship, with my despatch of the 16th of last September, of the legal charges defrayed by this Consulate on behalf of Her Majesty's Government in connection with the judicial proceedings in the Robert murder case.

As in my former correspondence with your Lordship's office, as well as in that with Her Majesty's Legation at Madrid, and more particularly in my despatch to your Lordship of the 4th September, I had the honour to explain the imperative nature of the grounds upon which these expenses were incurred, I venture to hope your Lordship will be pleased to authorize me to include the present charge of 72*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* in my next quarterly account with your Lordship's Department.

It may be well, perhaps, I should state that, while the former account had reference to the procedure of the ordinary Local Tribunal of the Juez de Primera Instancia, the present one is connected almost exclusively with the proceedings which, as reported in my despatch of the 19th of September, were subsequently instituted by the higher Court of the Audiencia of Seville.

The case having since then assumed a more complete form, so far, at least, as regards the presentation of witnesses and general services of the plaintiff's Procurator and Counsel, I have, after due consultation with the latter, withdrawn from any further expenditure in the suit, and I trust that, as with the exception of the delivery and publication of the judicial award, and the capture of the fugitive assassin, little more remains to be done, I shall ere long be in a position to report that this painful affair has been brought to a definitive and satisfactory conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Statement of Legal Charges incurred on account of Her Majesty's Consulate in the Robert Murder case.

(Translation,)

CONTINUATION of the account of expenses incurred in the prosecution of the cause of Mrs. Carmen Martin Robert against Juan and Manuel Fernandez, for the murder of her husband, Mr. James Frederick Robert, delivered by the Undersigned to the British Vice-Consul :—

	Reals.
To Procurator for serving summonses on the 18th and 24th of August, writing on the 25th, and serving summons on the 26th	19
Advocate for writing on the 28th	300
Procurator copying 8 sheets, and signing them on the same date	30
Procurator for serving summonses on the 29th, 30th, and 31st	9
Procurator for serving summonses on the 1st and 2nd of September	6
Advocate for attendance at two examinations on the 2nd	80
Procurator, for ditto, more than an hour	40
Procurator for serving summons on the 3rd September	3
Advocate for attendance at a confrontation of witnesses on the 4th	60
Procurator for attendance at two confrontations of witnesses on the same day	40
Procurator for serving two summonses on the 5th, two on the 6th, one on the 7th, another on the 9th, and one on the 10th of September	21
Advocate for attendance at seven examinations on the 13th	200
Procurator for attendance at seven examinations on the 13th, more than four hours	100
Procurator for serving summonses on the 12th and 14th	6
Advocate for attendance at the investigations made at San Juan del Puerto	1,500
Procurator for attendance (more than twelve hours) from 7 in the morning to half-past 7 in the evening	346
Procurator for serving one summons on the 16th of September	3
Advocate for attendance at the investigations made at San Juan del Puerto on the 16th of September	1,370
Procurator for attendance (more than eleven hours) from 8 in the morning to half-past 7 in the evening	320
Procurator for serving summonses on the 17th and 18th of September	6
Advocate for attendance at the investigations made at San Juan del Puerto on the 18th	1,560
Procurator for attendance, ditto (thirteen hours) from 8 in the morning to 9 at night	373
Procurator for serving summonses on the 20th of September, and agency	23
Procurator for serving summonses on the 4th, 14th, and 20th of October, and agency	29
Procurator for serving summonses on the 4th, 8th, and 15th of November, and agency	29
Paid for Travelling expenses going to and coming from San Juan del Puerto, on the 15th, 16th, and 18th of November	444
Reals vellon	6,917

Exchange at 96 reals per £. 6,917 reals equal to 72*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*

Received :
(Signed) ENRIQUE GOMEZ.

Huelva, November 30, 1871.

I, the Undersigned, British Vice-Consul, hereby certify that the foregoing account is, to the best of my judgment and belief, correct, the services therein referred to having been duly performed, and the charges in conformity with those usually made at this place under similar circumstances.

(Signed) EDUARDO DIAZ.

Huelva, November 30, 1871.

No. 42.

Mr. Dyett to Earl Granville.—(Received December 16.)

My Lord, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., Deeember* 15, 1871.

I VENTURE again to approach your Lordship on the subject of my letters to you of the 25th of August and 12th of October, and to ask you what reports you

have received from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid respecting the murder of Robert.

I have had a letter sent to me from a Mr. Greenhill, who was Mr. Thomas Docwras' managing man at the time of the murder, in which he says:—

"The Consul will not spend any more money in this case, as he says he has paid some 120*l.* for lawyers' expenses, and that the Consul at Cadiz informs him it will be very difficult to get the English Government to repay it, so he has in consequence given instructions to the lawyers to stop proceedings. The result of this will be that nothing more will be done, and I suppose the only man they have will be let out of prison, and they will arrive at a conclusion that an Englishman can be murdered with impunity.

"Unless the Government pushes the case on energetically, and finds the means to do it, no one will be punished, and we shall all be laughed at both personally and as a nation."

One of the Directors of this Company, Mr. Pattison, has just returned from Spain, and reports to the Board that, unless the Government do take prompt measures, it will have a very serious effect upon the security of the lives of our employés.

I am instructed to represent this to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MARK DYETT, *Secretary.*

No. 43.

Earl Granville to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 26, 1871.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 25th November, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Buitron and Huelva Railway Company,* inquiring how the case of the Robert murder stands; and I have to instruct you to continue to press the Spanish Government to bring the murderers of Mr. Robert to justice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 44.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 26, 1871.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, inquiring how the case of the Robert murder stands; and, in reply, I am to inform you that from a despatch from Madrid, under date of the 25th ultimo, it appears that Mr. Layard is using his best endeavours with the Spanish Government with a view of bringing the murderers to justice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 45.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received January 2, 1872.)

My Lord, *Madrid, December* 30, 1871.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 26th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have been in frequent communication with the Spanish Government and Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz with regard to the arrest and punishment of the assassins of Mr. Robert. It would appear from the last information that I have received that the murderer is in Portugal, and that a demand has been made for his extradition. Mr. Reade has recently expressed his intention of proceeding to Huelva to stimulate the action of the authorities. I will

* No. 42.

send a copy of Mr. Dyett's letter (inclosed in your Lordship's despatch) to Mr. Reade, and will ask for explanations, but I cannot believe that the statement it contains with regard to the discontinuance of proceedings in this case can be well founded. In the meanwhile, I will bring the subject again to the notice of the Spanish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 46.

Mr. C. W. Robert to Earl Granville.—(Received January 8.)

My Lord, *Queen's Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex, January 6, 1872.*

HAVING just received a letter from the widow of the late J. F. Robert, who was murdered on the 2nd July, 1871, at San Juan del Puerto, in the Province of Huelva, in the Kingdom of Spain, asking for advice and if the English Government intend to take any action in the trial, she states the Consul of Huelva, who has the case in hand, is a Spaniard by birth and related to the assassin. The Consul has repeatedly urged the widow to sign a document to withdraw the trial, and if she does not comply with his request, he shall not pay for the prosecution. The Judge (the assassin is in prison) has asked her whether she intends to proceed with the trial, if not, the authorities will set the man at liberty. I am given to understand in Spain murderers are allowed to settle with the injured parties, as there is no public prosecutor. If this is the case, the trial will fall to the ground for want of money. May I, therefore, ask if the English Government will defray the expenses, and be the prosecutors in this barbarous murder.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. W. ROBERT.

No. 47.

Viscount Enfield to Mr. C. W. Robert.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 10, 1872.*

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, in which you state that you have been informed by the widow of your late brother, Mr. J. F. Robert, that efforts are being made to induce her to withdraw from the prosecution of her husband's murderers; and I am to inform you, in reply, that his Lordship will instruct Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid to inquire into the matter.

I am, however, to state to you that, on the 26th ultimo, Lord Granville forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid a copy of a letter from the Huelva Railway Company, in which allusion was made to the possibility of proceedings being discontinued; and that in a despatch dated 30th ultimo,* Mr. Layard states, in reply, that he would forward that letter to Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz for explanations, but that he could not believe the statements contained in it to be well founded. He also stated that he should bring the subject again to the notice of the Spanish Government.

In the same despatch Mr. Layard reports that, according to the last information received by him, the murderer was in Portugal, and that a demand has been made for his extradition. Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz was about to proceed to Huelva to stimulate the action of the authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ENFIELD.

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* No. 45.

No. 48.

Earl Granville to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1872.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 30th ultimo, and to previous correspondence upon the subject of the murder of Mr. J. F. Robert, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. C. W. Robert,* in which he states that efforts are being made to induce the widow of the murdered man to withdraw from the prosecution; and I have to request that you will inquire into this matter, and report to me whether there is any foundation for the statements in Mr. C. W. Robert's letter, especially as regards the conduct of the British Vice-Consul at Huelva.

I have to remind you that, by my telegram of 9th August to Mr. Ffrench, you are authorized to defray the expenses of this case in the event of the Spanish Government declining to undertake the prosecution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 49.

Viscount Enfield to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1872.

WITH reference to Lord Tenterden's letter to you of the 26th ultimo, I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that, in a despatch dated the 30th ultimo, Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid states that he should forward your letter of the 15th to Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, but that he could not believe that the statement contained therein as to the discontinuance of proceedings in the case of the murder of the late Mr. J. F. Robert was well founded. In the meanwhile he should bring the subject again to the notice of the Spanish Government.

In the same despatch Mr. Layard reports that, according to the last information he had received, the murderer was in Portugal, and that a demand had been made for his extradition.

Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz was about to proceed to Huelva to stimulate the action of the authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ENFIELD.

No. 50.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received January 13.)

My Lord, *Madrid, January* 10, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Reade containing his observations on Mr. Mark Dyett's letter with reference to the assassination of Mr. Robert, of which a copy was forwarded to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 26th of December last. Mr. Reade will shortly proceed to Huelva to make inquiries on the spot as to the state of the proceedings in this case, and I shall wait for his report before again addressing the Spanish Government on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signey) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Cadiz, January* 7, 1872.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 30th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Earl Granville by a Mr. Mark Dyett, the Secretary to the Buiton and Huelva Railway

* No. 46.

Company, relative to the judicial proceedings in respect of the murder of Mr. Robert, and requesting me to furnish your Excellency with any observations I may desire to make on that communication, as well as report how the case now stands.

Having, since the receipt of your Excellency's despatch, applied to Mr. Vice-Consul Diaz for the last information with regard to the above case, I have received from him a statement to the effect that nothing is known at Huelva on the subject further than that the case has arrived at the "plenario" or final stage, and that, although there is reason to hope that a satisfactory verdict will ultimately be passed, it is impossible to say when the judicial proceedings will terminate.

The assassin, Juan Fernandez, is still at large, and reported to be wandering about the Portuguese frontier. His continued freedom is, I fear, the consequence of insufficient energy and zeal on the part of the Spanish authorities. With regard to Mr. Dyett's letter, I can only say that, while on the one hand it may be true that the continued expenditure of money by Her Majesty's Government might probably lead to increased activity and additional evidence in support of the plaintiff's cause, there are, on the other hand, sufficient data in the possession of the local authorities to enable them to terminate the affair promptly and satisfactorily. For this reason, and until I am persuaded that further expenses on our part are absolutely necessary, I do not consider myself authorised to incur, on account of this unfortunate affair, an additional outlay of public money.

Pressure of the kind suggested by Mr. Dyett would undoubtedly tend to bring about some beneficial results, not only with regard to the progress of the present case, but to the future security also of all British subjects resident in the Huelva district. As to how far, however, it may be politic to apply that pressure, your Excellency is of course the better judge.

Before closing this despatch I am anxious to rectify a passage in Mr. Dyett's letter to Lord Granville, wherein expressions are attributed to me which I did not in reality use. I never remarked, as stated by Mr. Dyett, that "it will be very difficult to get the English Government to repay," &c. What I really have said is that it would be difficult for people in England to understand how, in a case of murder committed in the broad light of day and before a crowd of people, such an expenditure of money by the British Government should be at all necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 51.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 18, 1871.

WITH reference to Lord Enfield's letter of the 10th instant, on the subject of the judicial proceedings in the case of the Robert's murder, I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that a Report has now been received from Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, in answer to certain statements contained in your letter of the 15th of December last, respecting the reported discontinuance of those proceedings.

Mr. Reade is informed by Vice-Consul Diaz that nothing is known at Huelva on the subject, further than that the case has arrived at the "plenario," or final stage; and that, although there is reason to hope that a satisfactory verdict will ultimately be obtained, it is impossible to say when the judicial proceedings will terminate.

With reference to the question of incurring fresh expenses in connection with this case, Mr. Reade remarks that there are now sufficient data in the possession of the authorities to enable them to terminate the affair promptly and satisfactorily, and that he does not consider himself authorized to incur them until he is convinced of their absolute necessity.

I am to add that, adverting to the phrase attributed to him in your letter of December 15th, that "it will be very difficult to get the English Government to repay," &c., Mr. Reade explains that what he really said was, that it would be difficult for people in England to understand how, in a case of murder committed in the broad light of day and before a crowd of people, such an expenditure of money by the British Government should be at all necessary.

In conclusion, I am directed to remind you that, as you were informed by Lord Enfield on the 10th instant, Mr. Reade is about to proceed himself to Huelva, to make inquiries on the spot.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 52.

Mr. Dyett to Mr. Hammond.—(Received January 20.)

Sir, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., January* 19, 1872.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of Lord Enfield's letter of the 10th instant, as well as yours of the 18th idem, and to thank you for the information contained in them on the subject of inquiries relative to Robert's murder. I have forwarded copies of both letters to our manager in Spain; and I am sure he will be glad to know that the matter will not be allowed to drop until justice has been satisfied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT.

No 53.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23.)

My Lord, *Madrid, January* 20, 1872.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 29th November, 1871, I have now the honour to inclose a translation of a note from Señor de Blas, and its inclosure, setting forth the reasons why the Director-General of the Civil Guard considers that he cannot authorize the sergeant referred to therein to endeavour to capture the assassin of Mr. Robert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Señor de Blas to Mr. Layard.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Madrid, January* 16, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, in reply to your note of November 26, 1871, the inclosed copy of a communication from the Minister of War, giving the reasons why the Director-General of the Civil Guard cannot authorize the Sub-Lieutenant referred to therein to undertake the capture of the murderer of Mr. James Robert.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) B. DE BLAS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Señor Carbo to Señor de Blas.

(Translation.) *Ministry of War, January* 9, 1872.

THE Director-General of the Civil Guard reported to this Ministry on December 23, the following:—

Having made myself acquainted with the contents of your despatch of the 3rd instant, requesting information regarding the authorization requested by the English Minister for a Sub-Lieutenant to undertake the capture of the assassin of the English subject James Robert, it is my duty to inform you that I do not think

that I have the power to grant this permission since, according to the Constitution, the competent Judge must dictate the warrant of arrest.

This formality being fulfilled by the said functionary, application could be made to the Governor of the Province, who, as Chief of the Civil Guard, then, in accordance with the officer in command of the same, will order such steps to be taken as are best calculated to obtain the desired end.

I have the honour to send you a copy of the foregoing in reply to your communication inclosing one addressed by the Minister of Her Britannic Majesty to the Ministry of State on November 25th last.

God preserve, &c. (Signed) BUENAVENTURA CARBO.

No. 54.

Mr. Dyett to Mr. Hammond.—(Received February 2.)

Sir, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., February* 1, 1872.

WITH reference to your letter to me of the 18th, as also to Lord Enfield's of the 10th January, copies of which, as I informed you in my letter of the 19th instant, I had forwarded to our manager in Spain, I have now received his reply, together with his further remarks, and I think them of such importance to the interests of our people in Spain, that I venture to ask you to be good enough to appoint a time when Mr. Smithers and myself may have an interview with you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT.

No. 55.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received February 9.)

My Lord, *Madrid, February* 6, 1872.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th ultimo, I have now the honour to inclose translation of a note from Señor de Blas, stating that measures will be taken for the capture of the assassin of Robert by a sergeant of the Guardia Civil.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Señor de Blas to Mr. Layard.

(Translation.)

Excellency, *Madrid, January* 31, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that as I am informed by the Minister of Grace and Justice, the necessary orders have been given to the Judge of First Instance of Huelva, in order that, in view of the warrant of imprisonment, he may concert with the superior officers of the Civil Guard, for the capture of the assassin of the British subject, James F. Robert, a sergeant of the Civil Guard having offered to effect the said capture, as your Excellency already knows.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) B. DE BLAS.

No. 56.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received February 10.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, February* 4, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid,

reporting upon the charges put forward against the British Vice-Consul at Huelva by Mr. C. W. Robert, a brother of the late Mr. Robert, who was murdered some months ago in the neighbourhood of that town, as well as upon the present state of the judicial and other proceedings that have been adopted with reference to the outrage referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

(Extract.) *Cadiz, February 5, 1872.*

YOUR Excellency's despatch of the 13th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a letter which had been addressed, on the 6th of the same month, to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by Mr. C. W. Robert, a brother of the late Mr. Robert, who was murdered in the neighbourhood of Huelva, came duly into my possession; and, although, as far as regards the points to which the inclosure more particularly refers, I have been able to anticipate my present communication, I thought it would be well to reserve any formal reply, until, after visiting Huelva, I had acquired more complete and satisfactory information on the subject.

Having, during a stay of some days at that place, satisfied myself that my former impressions in the matter were well founded and precisely accurate, I must beg to denounce Mr. C. W. Robert's allegations—that a relationship exists between the Counsel of Huelva (by which term it is probable, from the nature of the other charges put forward, that the British Vice-Consul is alluded to) and the assassin, and that the said Counsel has repeatedly urged the widow to withdraw from the trial—as devoid of foundation and grossly calumnious. If, too, it should happen that the accusations were intended to apply to either the lawyer or the procurador engaged on the side of the plaintiff, they are equally false and unprovoked. Far from deserving one single word of reproach, the gentlemen last referred to, as well as the Vice-Consul, have, throughout the whole of the proceedings in the present case, conducted themselves with praiseworthy energy and zeal; and if, as there is reason to apprehend, the difficulties which invariably attend in this country a prosecution for murder, have been, in the present instance considerably enhanced through the tardiness of the principal judicial authority of the district to establish, in the usual way, his Court of Inquiry at the place where the murder was committed, no degree, certainly, of blame is at all attributable to Mr. Vice-Consul Diaz, who, as I was informed by the Provincial Governor himself, called upon the said Judge, in his Excellency's presence, on the very day of the assassination, and in the most pressing terms, to proceed at once to the scene of the outrage, warning him of the grave responsibility he would incur by delaying his departure.

The Judge, however, did not go until the eighth day after the perpetration of the murder, and, as I have before reported to your Excellency's office, the interests of the prosecuting parties were thereby very materially prejudiced.

I am happy, nevertheless, to state that, notwithstanding all the difficulties with which the case has from the commencement been beset, it is now in a fair way to terminate satisfactorily; and for such a result, whatever Mr. C. W. Robert may write, we are not a little indebted to the party or parties he has thought proper to calumniate.

With regard to the stoppage of the legal expenditure, that was done by my direction, and for two special reasons: In the first place, because I had been informed by the Judge before whom the case is being tried that he was in possession of the evidence necessary for the assassin, and of his father and accomplice; and, secondly, because I was unwilling to make it worth the lawyer's while, in a pecuniary point of view, that the settlement of the affair should remain undetermined for an indefinitely protracted period. As, however, this was at the time duly explained to the murdered man's widow, and the lawyer consented to continue representing her interests in the trial, on the chance of being subsequently repaid, it is clear that the complaints put forward by, or on behalf of, that lady, were uncalled for.

During my visit to the Huelva district, I saw and had some conversation with Mrs. Robert on the subject of her brother-in-law's letter, and was assured by her

that, although she had been engaged in correspondence with that person, she feared that the substance of what she wished to communicate to him had been misinterpreted by the parties who, in her ignorance of the English language, acted as her amanuenses.

To revert, however, to the state of the judicial procedure. I am happy to believe, as I have above stated, that we are fast approaching its termination. A new and, I trust, last phase has been entered on. While at Huelva, some days ago, I learnt that the defendants had been called upon to show cause why judgment should not be passed on them, and, as the latter have declared their intention to show cause, sixty days were allowed them for the purpose, at the end of which term (provided, of course, that the case of the prosecution is not in the meanwhile materially damaged—a contingency which is scarcely to be contemplated) the case will terminate, so far, at least, as the assassin's father is concerned, and a suitable indemnity will, I suppose, be awarded to the widow and her children.

In order to facilitate the progress of the suit, as well as prevent the possibility of any unforeseen advantage being taken by the defendant's counsel, in the absence of any lawyer entrusted with the interests of the plaintiff, the gentleman who has hitherto represented the plaintiff has demanded, and his demand has been acceded to, that no declaration shall be taken except in his presence, and subject to any cross-examination he may think proper to conduct or reply render.

Under these circumstances, and considering that, while, on the one hand, the lawyer's further assistance, if not absolutely necessary, will be particularly advantageous to our interests, as well as of a nature to avert, probably, much undue complication or disappointment, his services were, on the other hand, originally retained by myself on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, I thought it was only proper and decorous to resume the legal expenditure which I had, as before-mentioned, discontinued, and I trust that the decision to which, under the special circumstances of the case, I came, will not be disapproved by your Excellency.

While, however, such favourable progress is being made in the judicial procedure to which I have referred, I regret to say that the assassin Juan Fernandez has till now escaped detection, and this is the more strange, as, although peremptory orders for his capture dead or alive have been issued by the Ministerio de Gobernacion, it it known that he was, only a few days ago, at San Juan del Puerto.

This failure of justice is, I have no doubt, owing to the fact that the Juez de Paz, who acted so reprehensible a part, in connection with the murder, at the very outset of the affair, is still permitted to exercise his magisterial functions. Houses, where the assassin was either known or suspected to have taken refuge, have been searched to no purpose. When, however, it is considered that the interior of a dwelling at San Juan del Puerto cannot be subjected to a police inspection without a special order to that effect from the Juez de Paz, it will not appear surprising that, before that dwelling is entered, an opportunity will have been afforded to the criminal to seek another hiding-place. Besides the Juez de Paz, the Alcalde of San Juan del Puerto is known to be nearly related to the assassin, and, consequently, interested in his escape; and so long, therefore, as these authorities remain in office, I fear there will be little chance of effecting the apprehension of the murderer Fernandez.

No. 57.

Viscount Enfield to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1872.

IN reply to your letter of the 1st of February, in which you request an interview with reference to the murder of Mr. Robert, I am directed by Earl Granville to state to you that his Lordship would prefer to receive anything you may have to communicate with regard to this matter in writing.

I am also to add that it appears from the last despatches from Mr. Layard that he is doing all in his power with the Spanish Government, and he states that he has been emphatically assured by Señor de Blas that it is their intention and desire to bring the murderer to justice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ENFIELD.

No. 58.

Mr. Dyett to Mr. Hammond.—(*Received February* 17.)

Sir, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., February* 17, 1872.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of Viscount Enfield's letter of 16th, in reply to the one I addressed to you on the 1st instant, asking for an interview, in order that I might explain personally more fully than I can do by letter the purport of my advices from Spain as to the steps being taken, or rather, not being taken, to bring the murderer of Robert to answer for his crime. As, however, Earl Granville proposes that I should state what I have to say in writing, I must endeavour to do so, although I regret not being allowed a personal explanation.

I am informed that, in spite of all the action that is promised and has been promised by the authorities, the results up to the present time have been almost *nil.* It is of little importance for us to know that the case is in "Plenario," for we unfortunately know that it may remain there for years, or disappear altogether.

The murderer was in San Juan not many days ago (previous to the 26th of January last) and stayed there several days, and this was perfectly well known in Huelva. The mother, who, perhaps, took the most active part in the crime, is at liberty, and no one appears to think of arresting her. The Juez de Paz, Escribano, and doctor are still in their official positions, and unmolested, although it was said that a criminal prosecution was at once to be commenced against them.

Vice-Consul Diaz, in his despatch to Mr. Reade, might have added that not only was nothing known, but that none cared to know, anything about the case, and that the Vice-Consul, in conversation with the Judge, expressed his opinion "that they had given this case a great deal more importance than it deserves."

In my letter to Earl Granville of 15th December last, I stated the Consul would not spend any more money in legal expenses, and, notwithstanding this was endeavoured to be explained away, I now am again assured that this statement is strictly correct, and that all legal expenses have been stopped.

I was told long ago that the influence of Don Pedro Pinson would be too strong for the English Government, and I now believe it; and although Mr. Reade came round in an English gunboat, the Spaniards only laughed at it; and now they will soon be able, from our supineness, to laugh at us still more. It was only a short time ago that the Company's Manager was twitted about this very thing.

It is really difficult to believe, yet such is the case, that, with an English Vice-Consul at Huelva, the murderer of an Englishman was at large in San Juan for more than a month after the murder, and that, after a reported run over to Portugal, comes back to San Juan almost publicly, and yet no attempt is made to apprehend him. This will be more astonishing than the necessity for spending a few pounds in legal expenses.

I think it would be worth while for an inquiry to be made by the Foreign Office how many English sailors have been killed in Huelva, and what punishment has been inflicted on the assassins.

I think also that the attention of the Foreign Office should be called to the fact that in a port like Huelva, with more English shipping in it than, perhaps, any in Spain, with English Companies with large capital invested in the province, we have not even a Consul who can speak English. Up to a short time ago, Mr Clements has done the work for Vice-Consul Diaz, but he is dead; and so now if a sailor or any one who cannot speak Spanish applies to the Consul, he will have to send for an interpreter.

I do not wish to say a word against Vice-Consul Diaz, who I have no doubt is a very estimable man. But I do say, and I am very strongly of opinion, that if we had an Englishman as Consul (and the port of Huelva is of sufficient importance to have a Consul and not a Vice-Consul), the murderer of Robert would not have escaped.

I earnestly call Earl Granville's attention, with all due respect, to the importance of the subject of my letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT.

No. 59.

Earl Granville to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1872.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 10th instant, I transmit to you a copy of a further letter from the Secretary to the Buitron and Huelva Railway Company relative to the want of energy shown by the Spanish authorities in regard to the murder of Mr. Robert;* and I have to instruct you to continue to watch this case vigilantly, and to use every effort in your power to ensure the apprehension and punishment of the murderer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 60.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1872.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, upon the subject of the murder of Mr. Robert; and I am to state to you, in reply, that a copy of your letter will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid.

I am to add that Lord Granville has it under consideration whether any fresh steps can be taken to ensure the apprehension and punishment of Mr. Robert's murderers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 61.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord, *Madrid, February* 28, 1872.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 20th instant, I beg to assure your Lordship that I will do my best to obtain justice for the assassination of Mr. Robert. As in the present state of the case it would be of little use to make a further representation to the Spanish Government, I have again written to Mr. Reade, and have sent him a copy of Mr. Dyett's letter, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch above referred to. Mr. Reade informs me that there would be no difficulty in showing that the greater part of the statements made by that gentleman are unfounded; but before making an official report to me on the subject, he has again gone to Huelva to institute full enquiries on the spot.

Mr. Reade will return to Cadiz in the course of this week, and will report to me the result of these enquiries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 62.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received March 9.)

My Lord, *Madrid, March* 6, 1872.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, commenting upon the statements contained in the letter of Mr. Dyett, the Secretary of the Buitron Railway Company, relating to the conduct of the proceedings instituted against the assassin of Mr. Robert and his accomplices.

Mr. Reade, as your Lordship will observe, has again been to Huelva, and has

* No. 58.

instituted full enquiries on the spot with regard to the present state of this case. It appears to me that Mr. Reade has given a complete answer to Mr. Dyett's accusations against the persons concerned in it.

In consequence of what Mr. Reade says as to the course taken by the Spanish authorities, I do not think it advisable to address for the present a further communication on the subject to the Spanish Government, but I shall not lose any opportunity of pressing upon Señor de Blas the necessity of making every exertion to bring the murderer to justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Cadiz, March* 2, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a further letter from the Secretary of the Buitron Railway Company to the Earl Granville, on the subject of the murder of Mr. Robert, and requesting me to furnish you with any remarks I may have to make with regard to that communication.

Having, since the receipt of your Excellency's despatch, proceeded to Huelva, and enquired searchingly into all the circumstances which Mr. Dyett has thought proper to bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Secretary of State, I beg to submit to you the following observations.

Although called upon to report upon this last communication of Mr. Dyett, I am sure your Excellency will not be surprised to learn that it is totally unworthy of the attention that has been so graciously accorded to it.

With regard to the allegation with which Mr. Dyett opens his attack upon the local authorities and all others who, like myself and Mr. Vice-Consul Diaz, have been in any way concerned in the proceedings hitherto adopted against the parties implicated in the murder, that is to say, that little or nothing has been done in the matter; your Excellency is so well informed upon the subject that I feel I should be trifling with your time if, with a view to demonstrate the audacity of Mr. Dyett's assertions on this head, I were to recapitulate facts already reported to you. I must beg, however, simply to add to my former representations that the progress of the judicial procedure continues satisfactory, and that, from what I was able to gather during my last visit to Huelva (not only by means of personal communication with the lawyer who is watching the case on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, but also through conversation with the Judge himself), I have reason to believe the trial will terminate in the course of two or three weeks, and not extend, as Mr. Dyett insinuates, to a term of years.

That the murderer is still at large, and reported to have recently visited San Juan del Puerto, is, I am sorry to say, a painful fact; but that he moves about publicly, and that no attempt is made to apprehend him, is a perversion of the truth. An order for the man's capture, dead or alive, has to my knowledge been issued by the higher authorities, and if he has till now evaded detection or pursuit, it is certainly not owing to any disinclination on the part of the Guardia Civil to fall in with him.

To apprehend a murderer in Spain is, at all times, a matter of no little difficulty, and, under the administration of weak and unstable Governments, the difficulty is, of course, materially enhanced. In the present instance the task has, no doubt, been also aggravated a good deal by the assistance and protection which have been extended to the assassin by his numerous and influential acquaintance; but, beyond protesting, as has been done, against the interference of the latter, and bringing the circumstance to the knowledge of the Government, I do not see how any Consul can counteract or overcome an obstacle of this nature.

The mother of the assassin is, as Mr. Dyett states, unarrested, but for this circumstance, as well as for much of the delays and difficulties with which we have had to contend in the prosecution of this case, we are not a little indebted to the very Company which the complainant represents. Parties who are known to have witnessed all the incidents of the fatal outrage, and among them several employés of the Buitron Railway Company, have persistently denied that they either saw or

heard anything that took place, and hence it is that the female referred to has escaped molestation or commitment.

Should any attempt be made to repudiate the charge which I now distinctly impute to the said Railway Company, the following facts will bear me out.

The house of Fernando Hidalgo, an engine driver in the service of that Company, is situated opposite to and close by the spot where the fatal outrage took place, and to it Mr. Robert repaired immediately after he had received his death wound. He was attended to there by Fernando and his wife, and after water had been applied to his blooded and mud-besmeared face, and a cap placed upon his head, to supply the use of his own which had been lost during the scuffle, he was permitted to proceed alone to his own residence. When called upon, some days later, for their evidence at the trial, Fernando and his wife both swore they knew nothing of what occurred prior to the wounded man's entry into their house.

Juan Quintero, a stoker in the same service, was the individual who called upon Mr. Robert, and told him that the man who had on two previous occasions assaulted him was at that moment passing along the street; and, although Mr. Robert thereupon left his house for the purpose of recognizing his adversary, and was, a few minutes afterwards, attacked by a crowd of assailants and stabbed, he (Quintero) has ever since persistently denied having witnessed any part of the outrage committed.

José Romero, one of the Company's carpenters, accompanied Quintero on the occasion to which I have just referred, and he, too, gave evidence similar to that of the last-named witness.

From José Maria Espinosa, an assistant director of the railway station at San Juan del Puerto, it was that the Vice-Consul received the first notice of the tragic event, and in the letter communicating that information particulars are even given of all, or nearly all, that occurred. On examination, however, a few days later, Espinosa maintained, not only that he had not been an eye witness of any of the incidents he had himself narrated, but that he could not say from whom or how he had picked up the information. Shortly afterwards the last witness confessed confidentially to the lawyer I had engaged for the prosecution that his informant had been José de Parra, a watchman in charge of the Company's pier, or point of embarcation for the minerals transported by their railway, who, he declared, had seen all that took place on the occasion of the murder; but this man, on being called up, asserted, with stoical effrontery, that he knew literally nothing about the affair.

That these several witnesses were guilty of the grossest perjury, and able, if they had chosen to do so, to give such evidence as would have cleared up the case, at the very commencement of the judicial proceedings, and possibly led to the apprehension of all the parties implicated in the murder, a moral conviction exists; and yet the Buitron Railway Company, who, with the exception of the deceased's family, were, or rather ought to have been, more deeply interested in the matter than anybody else, failed to adopt with regard to these men that course which common decency as well as the ends of justice dictated—not one of the parties who had so perjured themselves was dismissed from the Company's service; and to this day, I believe, they continue in that employ. When the very comrades and fellow-workers of the murdered man were allowed to withhold their testimony with impunity, it is not to be wondered at that the rest of the San Juan people did the same.

Touching the proceeding that had been projected against the Juez de Paz, Escribano and Doctor, I am given to understand that they are still pending and cannot formally be gone into until after judgment shall have been pronounced upon the principal criminals. The statement that the Vice-Consul at Huelva, when conversing with the judge, ever expressed an opinion to the effect that they "had given this case a great deal more importance than it deserves," is denied by that gentleman, and has, probably, no better foundation than Mr. Dyett's other affirmations. Mr. Diaz may, possiby, have said, that more attention has been given to this case than it is usual in Spain to pay, under similar circumstances; and, if so, I am happy to share with him the responsibility of the remark.

The stoppage of legal expenditure referred to by Mr. Dyett was, as your Excellency is aware, only a temporary matter, and is, I trust, satisfactorily explained in my despatch of the 4th ultimo. If, however, I am to infer from that gentleman's remarks an insinuation to the effect that the stoppage of expenditure has led to any check or cessation of the judicial procedure, it is needless to add that nothing of the kind has taken place.

Mr. Dyett's apparent estimate of Don Pedro Pinson's influence as compared with that of Her Majesty's Government, his allusion to the alleged ludicrous effect of my voyage to Huelva in a gun-boat, and the prognosticated repetition of Spanish hilarity at the expense of the whole British nation, are points upon which it is also scarcely necessary for me to dwell. I will merely remark, with regard to Don Pedro, that, whatever he may have done to favour the escape of the assassin Juan Fernandez, he has not at any rate succeeded in setting that worthy's father and accomplice at liberty; and, judging from the inefficacy of his past exertions in the latter's behalf, I do not see any reason for supposing that he will save his friend from a protracted residence at Ceuta, Melilla, or other corresponding fortress or settlement.

Why my going to Huelva in a gun-boat should excite the risibility of Spaniards, I really don't know. I hope neither Mr. Dyett nor his Spanish friends imagine it was ever my intention to take the place by storm militarily. Be that, however, as it may, I must beg to add that my procedure, on the occasion referred to, has met with the direct approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs—an honour which (in my case at least) is of so rare an occurrence that the conduct in respect of which it is recorded must be presumed to be not only proper but even creditable. I trust, therefore, I may be pardoned if, under the circumstances, I can scarcely restrain myself from treating Mr. Dyett's observations with very much the same degree of levity as that which he tells us has been inspired in the Spanish mind by the course of action I have hitherto pursued.

Not the least of the numerous inaccuracies which Mr. Dyett has strung together is the assertion that 'the assassin was at large " in San Juan for more than a month after the murder, and that after a reported run over to Portugal, he comes back to San Juan almost publicly, and yet no attempt is made to apprehend him." Everybody at all conversant with what has occurred knows that the assassin disappeared as soon as Mr. Robert's death became known and an order was issued for his arrest; and, although he is reported to have, since then, been seen in San Juan, or its immediate neighbourhood, the efforts of the Guardia Civil to apprehend him have been thwarted only by the extreme caution and secresy with which his movements have been conducted.

In the inquiry suggested by Mr. Dyett, regarding the number of English sailors who have been killed at Huelva, and what punishment has been inflicted on the assassins, I have to reply that only one such death is recorded in the books of the Vice-Consulate, and that in that case a punishment adequate to the crime was duly inflicted.

Thomas Quale, cook and steward of the brigantine "Emily Burnyeat," of Whitehaven, official No. 44,222, whereof Thomas Evans was master, was, in the course of a drunken broil, stabbed by a tavern-keeper named Juan Comesana, on the 21st of February, 1870, and died in hospital the same night. The murderer, notwithstanding he had on his part received considerable provocation from the deceased and some other sailors, was, shortly afterwards, tried, found guilty, and condemned to fifteen years' penal servitude. The sentence was confirmed by the Audiencia of Seville on the 13th of December, 1870, and the culprit, who had been suffering from ill-health for some time previously, died while being transported from the gaol wherein he had been confined to a penal Settlement on the Moorish Coast.

Regarding this unfortunate case, I would beg to add that, but for the energy displayed on that occasion by Mr. Vice-Consul Diaz, much difficulty would have been experienced in proving the charge against the assassin. On being informed of what had occurred, the Vice-Consul hurried to the spot, and, arriving there in time to detect three Portuguese sailors who were endeavouring to escape from the scene, he compelled these men to depose to all they had seen of the affair, and it was upon their evidence that the murderer was convicted.

The above is the only instance publicly known or recorded of a British subject put to death at Huelva. If, however, Mr. Dyett should know of any other such case, I trust he will in the interest of humanity come forward and proclaim it to the world.

In the concluding sentences of Mr. Dyett's letter, the writer, although professing to entertain friendly feelings towards Mr. Vice-Consul Diaz, expresses an opinion that he should be superseded in his office by a *bonâ fide* Englishman. Now, whether such a change would, or would not, tend to the general interests of British commerce, the question is scarcely relevant to the lamentable event which forms the opening subject of Mr. Dyett's communication.

Mr. Diaz has held his present appointment for the last fourteen years, during which period he has always given satisfaction to his immediate chiefs; and, although he never converses in English, except when alone with those who know no other language, he understands that language sufficiently for the requirements of his office.

No Consular Officer, situated as Mr. Diaz was in the case of the Robert murder, could have acted with more energy, intelligence, and zeal, and I very much doubt whether any Englishman, less conversant than M. Diaz is in the habits and opinions of Spaniards, as well as in the legal forms of the country, would have done so well under the circumstances.

Before closing this despatch I cannot help expressing the annoyance I feel that Her Majesty's Government should have been put to any trouble in respect of charges which proceed from parties who ought rather to feel themselves under an obligation to us for much trouble and personal inconvenience incurred on their account. Few companies situated as the Buitron Railway Company were at the time of the assassination would have hesitated to come forward as the natural protectors of the murdered man, and undertake all the responsibilities of the prosecution of the case. They declined, however, to do so; and as, unless some such action had been immediately taken, the interference of the local authorities would have inevitably resulted in a failure of justice, the Consulate consented to assume in the affair a position which ought more properly to have devolved upon the company, and which, although Mr. Dyett may think otherwise, is totally foreign to the ordinary duties of a Consul. Little creditable, however, as this omission on the part of the Company was to demand, according to the usual forms that justice might be done on account of their murdered servant, their conduct in retaining in their employ men who by perjuring themselves, actually thwarted our endeavours to obtain some sort of reparation for the bereaved family, was, and is, in a special degree, reprehensible.

An impeachment similar to that to which I have now been replying, comes certainly with a peculiarly bad grace from the Secretary of the Buitron Railway Company.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 63.

Mr. Hammond to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1872.

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acquaint you that a copy of your letter of the 17th ultimo, relative to the murder of Mr. Robert was, by his Lordship's directions, communicated through Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid to Mr. Reade, the British Consul at Cadiz; and I am to transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch which has been addressed by the latter gentleman to Mr. Layard in reply,* commenting on the statements contained in your letter, and explaining what has taken place in regard to this unfortunate affair.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

No. 64.

Mr. Dyett to Mr. Hammond.—(Received March 16.)

Sir, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., March* 14, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, inclosing me, by Earl Granville's direction, a copy of a despatch from Consul Reade, relative to murder of Robert, with his explanations as to what had taken place respecting it, and I am sorry to find the remarks that gentleman has been pleased to make upon what I have represented to Earl Granville are penned in the spirit they appear to be; they do not show he has a very strong case.

* Inclosure in No. 62.

The statements I have from time to time placed before Earl Granville are not made up by myself, but are taken from the strong and frequent representations of our officials on the spot, who, I should suppose, are better able to know the real facts of the case than Consul Reade, who is at some distance from the seat of the murder.

I shall send a copy of Consul Reade's letter to my correspondents in Huelva, and I have very little doubt I shall receive a reply which will corroborate the evidence I have placed before Earl Granville.

The chief object of our directors has been to call the attention of Her Majesty's Government to this lamentable and unfortunate circumstance, with a view of protecting the lives of our countrymen in Spain for the future, as well as for justice in this present case, and if this has been obtained our duty will have been discharged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT.

No. 65.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 23.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, March* 18, 1872.

HAVING received from the British Vice-Consul at Huelva a further statement of legal charges incurred on behalf of Her Majesty's Government in the prosecution of the parties implicated in the late murder of a British subject at San Juan del Puerto, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of that statement, and to request that your Lordship will be pleased to authorize me to include the amount of the said expenditure in my next quarterly account with your Lordship's office.

The grounds upon which this expenditure was incurred are stated in my Report to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid of the 4th of last month, of which a copy was inclosed in a despatch which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the same day.

I beg also to solicit your Lordship's permission to charge in the same account the sum of 15*l.* sterling, expended by me on the public service in travelling to and from Huelva, and remaining there from the 27th of January to the 2nd of February of this year, and from the 26th of February to the 1st of March following.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 66.

Earl Granville to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1872.

I HAVE to state to you that I communicated to Mr. Mark Dyett a copy (omitting a few passages) of Mr. Consul Reade's despatch to you of the 2nd instant, which contained comments on Mr. Dyett's statements with regard to the conduct of the proceedings instituted against the assassin of Mr. Robert; and I now transmit to you, for your information, and for communication to Mr. Reade, the accompanying copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Dyett in reply.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 67.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Madrid, April* 20, 1872.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 8th March last, I am informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz that the case of the assassination of Mr. Robert has

* No. 64.

passed from the hands of the Judge into those of the Fiscal, and that he hopes in a few days to hear the definite result of the action. The murderer, it appears, has lately been in Seville, and narrowly escaped capture there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H LAYARD.

No. 68.

Viscount Enfield to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1872.

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th ultimo, I am directed by Earl Granville to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid reports, under date of the 20th instant, that the case of the murder of Mr. Robert has passed from the hands of the Judge into those of the Fiscal; and it was hoped that the definite results of the action would be heard in a few days.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ENFIELD.

No. 69.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 28.)

My Lord, *Madrid, May* 22, 1872.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th March last, I am informed, privately, by Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz that the Fiscal, in the cause relating to the assassination of Mr. Robert, has recommended that Manuel Fernandez, the father of the assassin, shall be condemned to penal servitude for life; and the young man, Villegas, who took part in the outrage, to seven years' imprisonment. The Judge's sentence has not, however, yet been formally recorded. Mr. Reade has learnt that it is probable that in the case of the father, the punishment will be modified to twelve or sixteen years' transportation to a convict establishment. An appeal will probably then be made by the condemned to the Audiencia of Seville.

The assassin, Juan Fernandez, is still at large; but Mr. Reade informs me that the hopes that he will be caught sooner or later, appear to be now more confidently entertained than ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 70.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 14.)

My Lord, *Madrid, June* 11, 1872.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, Mr. Reade, Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, gives me the following information in a private letter as to the state of the proceedings in the prosecution of the assassin of Mr. Robert, and his accomplices:—

"There is nothing new to relate with regard to the Huelva affair, further than it is dragging on favourably. For this reason, and in consideration of a pressure of work here, I have deferred going again to that part of my district. The protracted nature of the judicial process, and the repeated disappointments I have had in respect of the time at which I was given to understand the proceedings would terminate, are very annoying; but I have every reason to believe that sooner or later the ends of justice will be attained. Some days ago they telegraphed to me an inquiry whether I was prepared to incur the expense, which would be entailed by having the case heard publicly, and with open doors at the Audiencia of Seville; and finding, after consultation with my legal advisers at this place, and at Huelva, that by that mode of proceeding we should more certainly arrive at a prompt and satisfactory conclusion of the affair, I replied in the affirmative; and I trust my doing so will meet with your Excellency's approval. By the expense

referred to, is more particularly meant the presence of a lawyer (the Huelvan man), to watch the case on behalf of the prosecution."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 71.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 1.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, June* 26, 1872.

WITH reference to my past communications relative to the judicial proceedings instituted for the prosecution and punishment of the parties implicated in the murder of Mr. James Frederick Robert in the neighbourhood of Huelva, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed translation of two accounts, dated respectively the 20th of April and 22nd of June, of expenses incurred by me in connection with those proceedings, and to request that your Lordship will be pleased to authorize me to include the amount of the said expenditure in my next quarterly account with your Lordship's Office.

There is yet another sum, which, although it has no reference whatever to the immediate subject of the above statement, I respectfully beg I may be permitted to charge to the public account. I refer, my Lord, to a small, charitable donation (20 dollars), which, in order to enable the widow of the murdered man, who had come to this place for the purpose of seeking some pecuniary assistance, to pay her expenses here and return to her home near Huelva, I felt I was constrained to give to her.

I am happy to be able to inform your Lordship that the proceedings of the "Plenario," or trial of the case before the Huelva Tribunal, have at last been closed; that, although I have not yet been placed in possession of the Judge's sentence, I am informed that Manuel Fernandez, the assassin's father and accomplice, has been sentenced to penal servitude for the term of seven years (a period shorter by five or six years than I had been led to anticipate); and that the case has been forwarded to the "Audiencia," or Higher Court of Seville, for confirmation and execution. So far as the actual assassin, Juan Fernandez, is concerned, judgment is, of course, suspended until his capture shall have been effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 72.

Viscount Enfield to Consul Reade.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 8, 1872.

IN reply to your despatch of the 26th ultimo, I am directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to authorize you to charge in the account which you are instructed to render quarterly to this Department, the sum of 35*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.* and 1*l.* 10*s.* 2*d.* for legal expenses incurred by the Vice-Consul at Huelva in connection with the Robert murder case, and the sum of 4*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* for expenses incurred by Mrs. Robert in travelling from Huelva to Cadiz and back.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ENFIELD.

No. 73.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 18.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, July* 11, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying despatch which I addressed on the 8th instant to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affairs at Madrid, inclosing translation of the sentence passed by the Judicial Tribunal at Huelva with reference to the murder of a British subject named James Frederick Robert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 73.

Consul Reade to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Cadiz, July* 8, 1872.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the herewith inclosed translation of the sentence passed by the "Juez de Primera Instancia" at Huelva, on certain parties implicated in the murder committed last year at San Juan del Puerto, of the British subject, Mr. James Frederick Robert. The above sentence was, it appears, passed on the 5th of last month, but, for some cause or other which has not been explained to me, a copy of it did not reach me until a few days ago.

Although, in the present disordered state of the country, it is always a matter of congratulation to obtain from a Spanish Tribunal any measure of justice, however limited and unsatisfactory, I cannot help calling your especial attention to the flagrant improprieties and inconsistencies of the accompanying statement.

Manuel Fernandez y Rodriguez, the father and accomplice of the assassin, is condemned to penal servitude for a term of six years and one day, and to the payment of an indemnity of 4,000 dollars to the widow and children of the murdered man; and this conclusion is arrived at upon consideration of evidence of the most untrustworthy nature, evidence which was found in many points so conflicting and untrue that an action for perjury has been lodged against several of the principal witnesses.

Notwithstanding all that is known to the contrary, the same party, Manuel Fernandez, is declared by the judge to have acted only in defence of his son, against an illegal aggression on the part of Robert. If so, I ask, and I am afraid the same query will occur to the "Magistrados"* of the Audiencia, why is he punished at all?

The young man, Villegas, is acquitted of all participation in the outrage, because he did not attack Robert until after the latter had received his death blow, and because he only then hit him two blows with a stick that broke into pieces in the act, and he is consequently let off with five days' arrest and a fine of 2*l*.

The third party accused, that is to say, the assassin's mother, who is currently reported to have jumped and stamped upon the wounded man while he was lying on the ground, is honourably acquitted, because there was nobody bold enough to corroborate the statement of the two women by whom the charges against her were made.

The sentence having passed on to the "Audiencia," or Court of Appeal at Seville, for confirmation or modification, it is to be apprehended that, in view of the lenient terms in which the Huelva Judge has referred to the various incidents of the murder, the penalties awarded, which, as admitted by the Judge himself, are short even of those that are ordinarily inflicted in cases of homicide, may still be subjected to some undue commutation or reduction.

I have only to add that, so far as the assassin, Juan Fernandez (who continues unarrested), is personally concerned, sentence is deferred until his capture shall have been effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 73.

Sentence passed by the Juez de Primera Instancia, at Huelva, on certain parties implicated in the Murder of the British Subject, Mr. James Frederick Robert.

(Translation.)

IN the town of Huelva, on the 5th of June, 1872, Señor Don Jacobo Perez Trujo, Judge of the First Instance of this capital and district, having examined the cause which has been, and continues to be, pending in this Court between the parties, that is to say, on the one hand, Doña Cármen Martin, widow of Mr. James Frederick Robert, and in her name and representation, the Procurador Don Enrique Gomez Robles, in company with the directing counsel and prosecutor, the advocate Don Blas Cello and the Promotor Fiscal (Public Accuser) of the Court; and, on the other, Juan Fernandez, being excluded from our present consideration

* "Magistrados" are the Judges of the highest legal courts of the country.—T. F. R.

by virtue of what is laid down in the XIXth Article of the provisional law, with reference to a reform of the mode of procedure in criminal cases where recourse is to be had to appeals against judgment; Don Manuel Fernandez y Rodriguez, son of Zacarias and Maria, a native and resident of San Juan del Puerto, although in the evidence which is recorded at page 77 it is stated that he is a resident of this capital, farmer, proprietor, a married man, and possessed of a family, educated, and forty-four years of age; Jose Villegas Rebollo, son of Antonio and Nicolasa, native and resident like the former, of San Juan del Puerto, a bachelor, by occupation, a barber, able to read and write, and seventeen years of age; his curator, the Constable of the Court, Francisco Quintero; and Doña Maria de Jesus Beltran y Sayazgo, daughter of Don Juan and Doña Salud, of the same district and place of birth as the others, wife of Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez, educated, and of the age of thirty-seven years; the three criminals proceeded against, the two former being imprisoned in the national gaols of this province, on account of the cause formally prosecuted in respect of the wounding and subsequent death of Mr. James Frederick Robert, an English subject.

Having inquired into the acts which led to the main cause of this action, and which are enumerated in the following statement, it follows that,

1. Whereas, according to what appears from the communication on page 9, and the declarations of Don José Toscano on the back of page 37, of Don Juan Martin at page 246, of Sergeant of the Guardia Civil, Pascual Ros, on the back of page 143, and of the Guardia, Juan Fernandez Sanchez, at page 545, on the night of Saint John, the 24th of June last, or another more certain date, Mr. James Frederick Robert gave a dancing party at his house to persons of his intimate acquaintance, in consideration of that day's festival, and various young men of the village, amongst whom was Juan Fernandez ó Zacarias, also came, although they had not been invited, and interrupted the amusements, in consequence of which Robert complained to the Serjeant of the Guardia Civil, who happened to be present, and asked that those who had so interrupted the amusements should be turned away, and after Robert had requested them to retire, the said sergeant obliged them to go away; and whereas, shortly afterwards, on hearing a knocking at the door, the said Robert went to open it; whereas those outside caught hold of him by the wrist with the object of making him go outside the house, and he received a blow on the face which, it is supposed, was given by Juan Fernandez.

2. Whereas, according to the declarations of Don José Toscana, already mentioned, Don Manuel Santa Maria, see page 39, Doña Cármen Martin, page 88, and the communication of the 23rd, it appears that Mr. James Frederick Robert, accompanied by his wife, Doña Cármen, was returning home on the night of the 30th of the said month, and, at about half past nine of that night, a person, who, it is said by the last-named, was Juan Fernandez, met them in the street called "Dos Plazas," and falling upon Robert gave him several blows in the face, as well as threw him down and wounded him slightly in the right eye; that, on Doña Cármen crying out, a number of people hastened to the spot, and, putting an end to the disturbance, Robert and his wife returned to Toscano's house, which they had already left on their way, and, coming out again afterwards, they proceeded to their own house.

3. Whereas, by the evidence of Juan Quintero, see back of page 35, and of José Romero, page 152, it appears that, after what has already been stated, and at about nine o'clock on the morning of the 2nd of July of last year, Mr. James Robert, while in the Calle Real (principal street), in company with the said Juan Quintero and José Romero, asked them whether they knew Juan Zacarias,* the son of the Alcalde, and they replied affirmatively that they did know him; that Robert then said "when you see him pass come and tell me;" that, shortly afterwards, on seeing Juan Zacarias pass, in company with his brother Manuel, driving a cart loaded with sheaves of corn, they went to the door of the house of Don José Toscano, where Robert was standing, and said to him "these are they," or "that is he who is passing there," whereupon Robert went immediately after them, for the purpose, no doubt, of recognizing Juan, and he got as far as the house of Dionisio Pulido.

4. Whereas, at that point, according to what is declared by the witnesses, Juan Villegas, at page 59, and by José Cueva, at the back of page 43, James Frederick Robert appeared to be drawing a small sword from out of a thick stick which he

* Juan Fernandez and his father were generally known by the nickname "Zacarias."—T. F. R.

carried, or to be on the point of drawing the sword, and, according to the evidence of José Cueva at page 5, after having actually drawn the sword, the latter says that Robert made use of it, and, according to the testimony of Don Miguel Gonzalez, at pages 3 and 41, and of Dionisio Pulido, at page 4 and on the back of page 44, Robert was apparently directing his steps towards Juan when Manuel Fernandez, the accused, who at the moment came out of the house, took hold of him by the shoulder and the wrist of his right hand, and began to wrestle with him, both falling to the ground, and Robert becoming disarmed; as, also, at this time many people gathered round the spot, the said witnesses are unable to depose to anything more that occurred:

5. Whereas, on rising from the ground, and making his way home, Mr. James Robert went almost without clothing, with his face and eyes disfigured; his clothes torn, and covered with dust, and his hand placed on his left side; and, on passing by the house of Fernando Hidalgo, said to Hidalgo, and the latter's wife, Maria Mensurado Gomez, that he was going to call a doctor for the purpose of curing the wound he had sustained; and as, also, at the said house, some water was given him on account of his distressed condition.—See declaration of Hidalgo and his wife at page 135, and on the back of page 137:

6. Whereas, on arrival at his house, Robert was immediately afterwards examined by the licenced doctor of the said town of San Juan, Don Miguel Roberto, and was found to have sustained a wound in the middle of the left side of the stomach, in the left hypocondrium, one inch and two lines in length, affecting the skin, the cellular tissue, and part of the transverse muscle; the said wound being an incision, and caused by a "navaja" (clasp knife), or ordinary knife, and presenting as yet no symptoms of a serious nature, as shown by the certificate on the back of page 1, and the medical declaration which follows it:

7. Whereas, according to what is stated at pages 17 and 31, and the evidence which follows, Mr. James Frederick Robert expired during the night of the following day, the 3rd of July. The state of the patient having been pronounced to be serious, by the doctor, Roberto, that very morning, the 3rd, since, according to what is expressed at page 7, he was found to be suffering from great difficulty in breathing, cough, pain in the side of the chest, and other alarming symptoms, which he himself described, manifesting at the same time what he had before declared, that is to say, on the preceding day, and subsequent to his being thrown down and wounded; that he had received blows on the head and shoulders; that two of those who assaulted him knelt down upon his chest and stomach; and that he had been kicked in several parts of the body; as also, on a *post-mortem* examination of the body being made by the Drs. Don Manuel de Seras, of the Court, and Don Cárlos Cherízolas, see page 45; it was declared that the body was that of Mr. James Frederick Robert, of about 50 years of age, temperament sanguineous and impoverished, and constitution regular; presenting as the first symptoms of death rigidity, and other indications, which are expressed in the said declaration; whereas, also, after describing the wound, which they found covered with an external dressing, that had to be removed, and which was identical with the wound that is spoken of in the last preceding paragraph of considerations, they (the doctors) came to the conclusion of affirming that the wounded man died from "enteroperitonis," caused by the congestion and displaced matter produced by the wound; that the direction of the latter was from the exterior inwards, from left to right, and with a slightly upward inclination; that the symptoms which manifested themselves in connection with the thorax, in the last moments of the deceased's life, were the immediate consequence of the total loss of the expanding power of the lungs, owing to the change that was effected about the diaphragm, whereby congestion and the hepatization which was observed at the *post-mortem* examination supervened, and that, as these symptoms resembled* "neumonitis fulminante,' it was on their account, they thought, that the doctor who attended the deceased had believed in the existence of traumatism, and that the wound was, in fine, mortal, and from its character, inevitably so:

8. Whereas it appears from the declaration made by Mr. James Frederick Robert before the Municipal Judge of San Juan de Puerto, which is inserted on the back of page 1, without signature, and from the letter addressed to the British Vice-Consul at this place, with Robert's signature attached to it, see page 30, that he who caused the wound he was suffering from was a son of Zacarias, the same who assaulted and beat him two nights previously, and of whom he had already

* *Sic* in original copy.—T. F. R.

complained to the said Vice-Consul; that, according to the declaration which was made by him at the time of the occurrence, he saw, soon after having been thrown on the ground by Zacarias, the latter's son approaching with an open clasp knife, and then, in order to defend himself, drew the sword from the walking stick in his possession, whereupon somebody he did not know took the weapon away from him, and he then received the wound from which he was suffering, and proceeded to his house; and that, according to the latter, at page 30, he was walking along the street in the direction of his own house when the father of the said Juan Fernandez came behind him and threw him to the ground, and the son, who is the very person about whom he had complained to the Vice-Consul, running immediately to his father's assistance with a weapon in his hand, wounded him (the deceased) in the body as he lay on the ground:

9. Whereas, notwithstanding the numerous declarations made and the amount of evidence taken in this case, whether with intention, on the part of the witnesses, not to declare to the Court what they knew or what they actually saw of the affair, or for the purpose of withholding or disfiguring the facts, certain it is that, although the occurrences in question took place at nine in the morning on a feast day, at the time of finishing high mass, and in the most public place of San Juan del Puerto, no one appears to have seen more than a part of what took place:

10. Whereas the first mentioned defendant, on being examined, first as shown at page 6, and subsequently at pages 67, 159, 230, 317 (on the back), and 541, confesses that, being alone in the street called Dos Plazas, he saw his two sons passing with a cart load of sheaves of corn, and going towards them to tell them what they had to do, observed that a foreigner was walking with a stride that betokened violence towards his sons, and that, on approaching Juan, he drew a small sword ("estoque") from a stick, for the purpose of attacking him; that he (the deponent), arriving at the moment, took hold of the foreigner by the coat, and, wrestling the weapon from his grasp, told his sons to go to the threshing floor; that, on arrival of the farrier (who is the witness D. Miguel Gonzalez referred to in the 4th paragraph) he delivered the "estoque" (small sword) to him; that, see page 77, when the Englishman (Mr. James Frederick Robert) fell, he (the deponent) was obliged to place his knees upon him; that he delivered the "estoque" to the farrier in the presence of Blas Villegas and José Taillaper; that he does not know whether his son Juan approached the place of the encounter, but is quite confident he did not come near the place where he himself and the Englishman were, and that the cart which his sons were conducting passed on to some distance from the scene of the disturbance; that, as per page 159, he (the deponent) was aware of another affair that took place on the night of the 30th of June, in the street of the Dos Plazas, between his son Juan and Mr. James Robert, but that, when he reached the locality of the occurrence, everything had been put an end to; that, meeting at the said locality a person from Moguer and his brother-in-law, Estevan Rodriguez, the latter told him he needed not to think anything more about it, as, although his (the deponent's) son had taken a part in it, all was over, page 230; that his wife was a relative of the Municipal Judge, although he did not know exactly how she was so related, and that his mother was stepmother of Don Rafael Gimenez, so that both the latter and himself had married at the same time and as brothers, page 317; that the measures of conciliation he took and the efforts he made to avoid evil consequences were the result of his wish to prevent his son being killed, and it was for this reason that, as Alcalde, he demanded the "estoque" (small sword) from the Englishman, Robert, as well as to tranquillize the people, and so prevent them from doing any harm to that person, page 541; that his wife was not present at the scene of the occurrence, the distance between which and his house being 35, 40, or 50 yards; that, when he got hold of Robert, the latter was one yard distant from his (the deponent's) son, with a naked small sword ("estoque") in his hand, and in the act of using it; that his son did not see what the Englishman was doing, as he had his back turned upon him; that the deponent was coming round the corner of the Calle Real (principal street) at the moment in which the Englishman came out of the house of Don José Toscano; that between that corner and Toscano's house there was a distance of thirty yards or more; that, going along the Calle Real towards the east as far as the spot where the occurrence took place, both passed in front of his (the deponent's) house, one preceding the other by more than 100 yards; that the "estoque" (small sword) was taken away from Robert while the latter was lying on the ground; that he was aware of the disagreement that had taken place between his son and Robert at the dancing party but that although, with regard

to that affair as well as to the later one of the street Dos Plazas, he had made every inquiry, he had been assured that nothing of consequence had occured:

11. Whereas, according to the declaration of Gabriel Guerra Gonzalez, (page 241), of José Maria Parreño Bonayo (same page), of Gumersindo Gonzalez Barroso (page 242), Jorge Flenun (page 243), Cayetano José Sinca (same page), and Miguel Ortegui Zegeria (page 244), Mr. James Frederick Robert was in the habit of constantly using, as a walking stick, a sword stick, and the one used on this particular occasion is said to be the identical one he used to go about with. And as, by the testimony of José Romero Sanchez (page 152), and of Juan Quintero Contreras, it is established that when, on the morning of the 2nd of July, the question which is referred to in the third paragraph of considerations was put, and the conversation which took place at the same time was held, it was remarked that Robert gave no sign of resentment or irritation against Juan Fernandez:

12. Whereas, on examination of the Secretary of the Municipal Court, Don Rafael Gimenez Valladares, (*vide* page 478), and of Don José Maria Galindo (page 514), the former deposed, in reply to various questions that were put to him, and amongst other declarations, that he "saw from his house Juan Fernandez walking towards the spot where a dispute was being observed between the Englishman Robert and the second Alcalde, his (Juan's) father; that, with a view to prevent the matter assuming more serious proportions, and disgusted at what was going on, he (the deponent) endeavoured to turn Juan back or away from that spot, but that, not succeeding in his object, and observing, at the same time, that a crowd of people had collected, he gave place, and Juan proceeded in the direction of his father; that he (Don Rafael) then returned to his own house, alarmed at the consequences that might result from what he had seen, and especially so on learning that between Robert and Juan there had been a disagreeable affair some days previously; that, when he saw the Englishman Robert in company with Don Manuel, he was in an attitude of aggression, and on the point of committing an assault, and standing up, and that it was then that Juan took part in the affair. Don José Maria Galinde deposed that, it having come to his knowledge, although he could not state how, that the Englishman Robert was waiting to recognize the son of Zacarias, with whom some days before he had had a quarrel, and that, as he was passing before the door of Don José Toscano, he (the deponent) went out of his house and followed him; that the father of the youth, Don Manuel, who happened to be standing at the corner of the square, seeing the Englishman go after his son, followed him, and, coming up to him, got hold of him, and the disturbance took place, in which the Englishman, Mr. James, got struck and wounded.

13. Whereas, many witnesses point to the Zacarias father and son, that is to say, Don Manuel Fernandez and his son Juan, as the authors of the death of the Englishman, Mr. James Robert, in accordance with public voice and notoriety:

14. Whereas, Don Jose Espinosa (page 132), and Don Fernando Hidalgo (page 135), and his wife Maria Mensurado Gomez (page 137), depose that they had heard that the second party proceeded against, José Maria Villegas, had struck with a stick the unfortunate Mr. James Frederick Robert, and that the said Villegas, after being examined as a witness (page 131), declared that as he happened to be close to the scene of the disturbance, and saw the case or sheath of the small sword lying on the ground and crushed from having been trodden upon by the people, took it up and gave Mr. James two blows with it, in doing which it broke into pieces, all which occurred after the dispute had already taken place:

15. Whereas, owing to what had been represented to the Tribunal by the complainant, in the 9th paragraph of her communication of the 25th of July (page 205), the sisters Doña Piedad and Doña Cármen Martin (pages 254 and 259) were examined, and deposed that they had heard Don Antonio Moya, who, in company with Don José Acosta, entered, on the morning of the 2nd of July last, the house they inhabited, for the purpose of seeing the wounded man and informing themselves about his state, declare he had been at the house of Mrs. Zacarias, and heard her say, "See, Don Antonio, I have been bled in consequence of the excitement I have suffered through this Englishman. I should like to have had a good pair of boots on with which to stamp upon and flatten him, but I have, nevertheless, stamped upon him well and given him blows." They do not recollect whether she made use of any other expressions. On these witnesses and Don Antonio Moya being brought face to face (page 472), the last-named denied having stated what the others maintain. All these parties affirm and ratify their respective declarations (page 472):

16. Whereas, the Most Excellent Don Luis Hernandez y Pinson appeared before the Court and deposed (page 423) that he had heard from various inhabitants of San Juan, who had gone over to his estate of Balbuena, during the first days of the month of August last, statements to the following effect:—From Don Rafael Gimenez, that he (the latter) had been present at everything that took place from the very beginning, and had witnessed the aggression on the part of Don Manuel Fernandez, and his son Juan, as well as the conduct of the former's wife; from Don Manuel Rosendo, that he knew all that had taken place, without entering into further particulars, and repeated the very statement that had been made by Don Rafael Gimenez; that the latter again presented himself at the said estate, accompanied by Don Jose Serrano Sayazgo, further declared that he had seen nothing, but that it was publicly said that Don Manuel Fernandez and his son Juan had had a dispute with Mr. James Robert and beaten him; and that, finally after some days, Francisco Minchon and his brother Antonio, Juan de Mora el Merino, and Jose Pulido, also told him (Don Luis Hernandez y Pinson) that they did not themselves see anything that had passed, but that it was a matter of too much publicity and notoriety in the said town, that Don Manuel and his son had beaten Mr. James, and that the wife of Don Manuel had also taken part in the affair; whereas, also, on hearing Don José Sanchez Merino of the same town say that Don Rafael Gimenez Valladares had raised Mr, James Robert from the ground, when the latter, after having received the blows, lay extended in the ditch of the road, all the said witnesses deny what had been said by the Very Excellent Gentleman, as shewn by their respective declarations and the face-to-face examination (pages 442 to 450 and from 468 to 488), and Don Rafael Gimenez Valladares, on the contrary, makes the statement which is contained in the paragraph of considerations No. 12:

17. Whereas, when the proceedings were communicated to the accused parties for them to prove whatever facts they might wish to establish, their defence was drawn up in accordance with their right and in the terms they considered convenient, that is to say, it consisted in their endeavour to establish, by means of the evidence of witnesses, that Mr. James Robert was in the constant habit of wearing a coat and not a jacket, and that it was also his custom to carry about with him, for the purposes of a walking stick, a small cane, but never the sword stick he had with him on the day of the occurrences which are the subject of these legal proceedings; that at the town of San Juan del Puerto, there exist a hatred and animosity against all the employés of the railway from Buitron to that town, for the reasons that they believe their interests have been prejudiced by it (see page 787 to the back of page 792). And as, by the declaration of the experts and armourers (at page 794), the ownership of the "estoque" (small sword), was recognized, and it is declared that the point or head of the handle of the weapon is, as they believe, of mahogany, and without polish of any description; that neither the blade nor mounting is that of any known manufacture, but that the said blade belonged more probably to some old sword, while the mounting was done at the workshops of smiths or armourers of this country; as, also, with regard to the ratifications of the testimony taken, in connection with the "Sumario," of Felipe Pulido, José Cueva, Dionisio Pulido, Don Miguel Gonzalez Esquifort, Don Rafael Gimenez Valladares, José Perez Stivas (see pages 795 to 801); of Jose Gonzalez Ortega, Alejandro Gonzalez Ortega (page 820 to 822), and of Juana Dominguez Aquino and Dolores Rodriguez Tirado (pages 828 and 829), all of them hold firmly to their respective depositions at the taking of the "Sumario," without adding thereto or changing anything, while the following modifications are made by the others: by José Cueva and Dionisio Pulido, that Robert had the "estoque" actually drawn; by Don Miguel Gonzales that, when he took the "estoque" (small sword), it was when Don Manuel Fernandez withdrew to his house and delivered it to him; and, by Don Rafael Gimenez, that, on observing from his house the disturbance which the Englishman had with Don Manuel Fernandez, he proceeded to the spot, and saw Juan Fernandez go in the direction of his father, and then after avoiding him, proceed immediately to his own house, and that he did not regard it as an established fact that the Fernandez had caused the death of Robert, and as, in reply to a question that was put to him by the Counsel for the defence, he, Rafael Gimenez, declared that the threats and violence to which he had alluded consisted in the strugle between Don Manuel Fernandez and the Englishman to get possession of the "estoque" (small sword) which was, as he states, at the time unsheathed:

18. Whereas, in answer to the accusation, it is established in the third additional paragraph, through the testimony of the witnesses Miguel Pulido and Francisco Cabrera, that the defendant Doña Maria Jesus, at the time of the disturbance, was inside her house, and, on hearing the cries, went out to the street door and entered again immediately, so that, when her husband arrived, she was already inside her house, a fact of which the certainty and truth are testified to by the said witnesses (see back of page 192 and page 193).

19. And, whereas, the distance that exists between the house of Don José Toscano, which is the one in which Mr. James Frederick Robert happened to be when Juan Quintero said to him "these are they," and the spot where the disturbance took place, according to the inquiries on the back of page 154, is 57 paces, and that which separates Don Rafael Gimenez's house from the same spot, according to proof solicited on behalf of the accused parties, and is stated at page 811, is 110 yards:

1. In view, therefore, of the fact that between the British subject Mr. James Frederick Robert and some of the members of the family of the defendants, Don Manuel Fernandez and Doña Maria de Jesus Beltran, and owing to the disagreeable scenes of the nights of the 24th and 30th of June of the past year, there were, without either motive or cause, feelings of discord or enmity which undoubtedly gave rise to the circumstances of the present proceedings:

2. Considering that, as the basis on which a judgment should be founded ought to consist of the classification of the crime that is proceeded against, and of the degree of guilt that may attach to the accused parties, regard being had at the same time to the nature or extent of the latter's participation in the said criminal act, and to the circumstances which connect the crime committed with the bodily injury and subsequent death of Mr. James Frederick Robert, the case must be classified as homicide, according to the meaning that is given to that term in the Article 419 of the Penal Code, however clearly some of the circumstances, which are specified in Article 418 of the same Code, may be found to give the present case the character of assassination:

3. Considering that, on the morning of the 2nd of July last year, and at about 9 o'clock, Mr. James Frederick Robert was in a sound and healthy state, when he came out of the house of Don José Toscano, upon being informed, at the door of that house, by the witness Juan Quintero, that a person to whom he was pointing was the son of the Alcalde, about whom he had made inquiry, who was driving a cart loaded with sheaves of corn, and followed the latter with more or less velocity until he arrived at a point immediately opposite the house of Dionisio Pulido:

4. Considering that, at that spot, a conflict took place between him and the defendant Don Manuel Fernandez, in which, while the two men were struggling together, Mr. James came to the ground, and Don Manuel put his knee upon him, and when he got up and went in the direction of his own house, he was already wounded and in the condition in which the witnesses Fernando Hidalgo and his wife Maria Mensurado have depicted him, that is to say, covered with mud, in rags, half-naked, and afflicted:

5. Considering that, while on the one hand there is no doubt Don Manuel Fernandez, the defendant, did not inflict upon Mr. James the wound that caused his death, on the other it is evident that, while he was struggling with him some other person struck the blow that occasioned the death, whether the two contendents were standing up at the time or had fallen to the ground:

6. Considering that, between the houses of Dionisio Pulido and of the farrier, Don Miguel Gonzalez Esquifort, there is a distance of fifty-seven paces from that of Don José Toscano, while Mr. James was returning, after having recognized Juan Fernandez, as he wished to do, according to his own declaration, and as he was advancing on the right side of the cart, as stated by the Pulidos and Gonzalez, the defendant, Don Manuel Fernandez, attacked Mr. James from behind, laying hold of him by the shoulder and right hand, in order, as the defendant and the witnesses above referred to declare, to get him under subjection, as, according to their statement, Mr. James drew the "estoque" (short sword) and endeavoured to attack Juan with it, all which is denied by the declaration of Mr. James and by the second defendant, José Villegas, when he was examined as a witness; and that it is undeniable and true that the the co-operation of Don Manuel Fernandez in the commission of the crime was such that, but for the fact of his having laid hold of him in the manner in which he himself confesses he did, the wound from which Mr. James died would not have been inflicted:

7. Considering that, in the latter case, the defendant, Don Manuel Fernandez, was a coadjutor in the crime which is now proceeded against, and that, in the part he took in the matter there was no aggravating circumstance worth notice, but that, on the contrary, there was the extenuating fact that he acted in defence of his own son; that the aggression was illegal and perpetrated without sufficient provocation on the part of the defendant, but that the latter went beyond the rational means which it was found necessary to adopt with a view to check or repel that aggression, and which, if he had adopted, he would have been free from all criminal responsibility by virtue of what is laid down in the 5th clause of the 8th Article:

8. Considering that, against the second defendant, José Maria Villegas, there is nothing recorded further than what he himself confesses in his examination, viz., that, when Mr. James Robert got up, after his struggle with the first defendant, Don Manuel Fernandez, and, on finding the cane of the "estoque" (small sword) on the ground crushed and trodden upon by the people, he got hold of it and struck Robert two blows with it, in consequence of which blows the said cane was broken into pieces: considering also that, although the act was inhuman and one that denotes the bad heart of the party by whom it was committed, there is, nevertheless, nothing in the conduct of Villegas prior to the occurrences or simultaneously therewith, so far as it is confessed to by him, to connect him either directly or indirectly with the death of Mr. James. in which case he ought not to be considered as an accomplice but as one who had committed an offence which is punishable in accordance with the 1st clause of Article 604:

9. Considering that, with regard to the third party accused, Doña Maria de Jesus Beltran, there appears to be no other evidence against her further than what has been manifested to the Court by Doña Piedad and Doña Carmen Martin, the widow of Robert, and what has been declared by Don Pedro Garcia Borrero, both which statements have been repudiated by the witness referred to, Don Antonio Moya, and the repudiation justified by the testimony of Miguel Pulido and Francisco Cabrera, who say that, when the affair took place and at the commencement of it, she (the defendant) was inside her own house, and that she went to the door only when she heard the cries, and immediately afterwards re-entered, whereby her innocence and inculpability are proved:

10. Considering that, since everybody who is guilty of a criminal act or offence is at the same time civilly responsible for the consequences of the same, the defendant, Don Manuel Fernandez y Rodriguez, is bound to indemnify the widow of Mr. James Frederick Robert and her children, in conformity with the position and circumstances of the latter as well as of the criminal himself, for, however true it may be that all the interests possible are an insufficient indemnity for the loss of a dearly cherished person, it is nevertheless necessary to take both this view and the reverse one into account:

11. Considering that, in the acts of accusation on the part of the complainants and on that of the Promotor Fiscal (the public accuser), certain proceedings are denounced which are actionable at law and appear to have been committed in the drawing up of the *procès-verbal* of the Sumario by Don Miguel Roberto, the acknowledged medical man of the town of San Juan del Puerto, through the great contradiction of facts which is apparent in the professional exposition of the latter and the results of the analysis of the dead body by the doctors who conducted the *post-mortem* examination: considering, also, that the conduct of the witnesses José Cueva, Don Rafael Gimenez, Felipe Pulido, and Dionisio Pulido, is likewise actionable, on account of the false testimony given by them in the course of the present judicial proceedings, and the conduct also of Francisco Minchon actionable for false testimony, besides all that results from the explanations of Antonio Corrales and José Fernandez, as well as from the other acts, such, for instance, as the separate document which was called for in the additional paragraph of the Promotor's act of accusation:

12. And considering that, so far as regards the instruction by the Superior Tribunal of the 14th of October last, as shown by the certificate which is put in at page 654, the determining of what may be deemed to decide with reference to the faults which may have been committed by the Alcalde of San Juan del Puerto, Don Manuel Santa Maria, in respect of his position as a duly-constituted authority in the full exercise of his official duties, pertains to the higher functionary first above referred to:

In view, therefore, of the following Articles of the Penal Code, 11, 13 (3rd clause), 419, 18 (5th clause), 87, the gradual scale No. 2 of 92, 97, with its

explanatory Table 72, 18, 121, 124, 604 (1st clause), and the further concordant enactments of general application, as well as the 12th, 13th, and 19th Articles of the provisional law with regard to the reforming of the procedure whereby appeals are lodged against Judgments that are pronounced in cases of a criminal nature; and Rule 56 of the provisional enactments that were carried into effect for the purpose of applying the Code of 1859, before me, the notary of the Court, he (the Judge) said that he was in duty bound to declare, and did declare:—

(1.) That the facts which are the subject of these proceedings, and which are fully proved, constitute the crime of homicide, as perpetrated on the person of the British subject, Mr. James Frederick Robert.

(2.) That with reference to the said crime it is also fully proved by the evidence of grave and conclusive testimony that, since he co-operated in the perpetration of the deed, and without that co-operation that deed would not have been effected, Don Manuel Fernandez was a co-actor or accomplice, although under circumstances of an extenuating nature, inasmuch as he acted in defence of one of his own children against an act of illegal aggression on the part of Mr. James Frederick Robert, and one for which there had been no provocation given by Don Manuel Fernandez. That the second party accused, José Villegas Rebollo, did not take part in the commission of the crime, either by what he did prior to the occurrence or simultaneously therewith, and cannot therefore be considered as either an actor or accomplice in the matter, and much less as an accessory after the first, but that he has been guilty only of an offence which is punishable in conformity with the first clause of the before-cited Article 604. And that not even the third party accused, Doña Maria Jesus Beltran y Sayazgo, co-operated in the perpetration of the crime, since it has been proved that when the affair took place she did not quit her house or go outside the door of it, and her innocence and exemption from culpability is therefore also established.

(3.) That as the penalty which is appointed by law as applicable to the crime of homicide is temporary imprisonment; as, also, considering the extenuating circumstances which, as above stated, attach to the conduct of the first party accused, in view of its long duration and severity, the penalty immediately below it in its minimum degree should be inflicted upon him; that the second party accused, José Villegas y Rebollo, ought to suffer the heaviest penalty that can be applied to the crime he has perpetrated; and that Doña Maria Jesus Beltran y Sayazgo must be acquitted, free of all costs, and with her reputation unimpeached: and

(4.) That Don Manuel Fernandez y Rodriguez shall indemnify the widow of Mr. James Frederick Robert and her children, in equal proportions, and as will be later specified. That the other two parties accused are not called upon civilly to pay any indemnity on account of the injuries occasioned by the crime; and that it was, consequently his duty to condemn, and he did condemn, the first Defendant, Don Manuel Fernandez y Rodriguez, to "prision mayor" (transportation to a penal settlement) for the space of six years and one day, with the additional penalty of suspension from every public charge and from the privilege of the suffrage during the whole of that time; to the payment, also, to Doña Carmen, the widow of Mr. James Frederick Robert, and her children, of the sum of 10,000 pesetas to each one, that is to say, of 20,000 to the mother and children, and to the defrayal of one-fourth of the judicial costs. That the second party accused, José Villegas, is absolved and exempted from all costs in respect of the crime which forms the subject of the present proceedings, and, in place thereof, a penalty is inflicted on him for the fault he committed of five days' arrest and 50 pesetas fine, the fourth part of the costs which he would otherwise have been called upon to pay being transferred to the public account; and that Doña Maria Jesus Beltran is also absolved, free of all costs, and furthermore declared to be in no way prejudiced in consequence of her having been treated as an accused party in the present cause; her fourth part of the costs being also passed to the public account, and the remainder to be dealt with hereafter. It being furthermore ordained that the depositions of the physician of San Juan del Puerto, Don Miguel Roberto, shall be put into the form of formal evidence, as well as the autopsical analysis and declaration of the physician of Figueros, Don Antonio Vasquez, who also examined the wounded man, in order that these may form an act upon which to institute whatever action there may lie against the first-named; and that a similar course be adopted with regard to the depositions of the witnesses, José Cueva, Don Rafael Gimenez, Felipe Pulido, and Dionisio Pulido, so that there may be four acts upon which to institute a legal action against them for false testimony; which acts it is

ordered to prepare, according to what appears to be proposed by the Promotor-Fiscal in the first of the additional clauses of his Deed of Accusation; and, finally, that this act shall be archived, for the purpose of serving in connection with any proceedings that may be hereafter taken with regard to the accused party who is still absent, Juan Fernandez y Beltran, and until that party shall present himself or be arrested.

Submitted for consulation to the Most Excellent Audiencia of the Province, to whom this cause is transmitted in original for approval or censure, with the privilege of citing witnesses or deferring execution of this sentence.

And for this his sentence, definitively pronounced, he, the said Señor Judge, so disposed and attached his signature. All which I, the notary, hereby testify.

(Signed) JACOBO PEREZ TRUJO.
JOSE MARIA DE LA CORTE.

No. 74.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(*Received August* 27.)

My Lord, *Cadiz, August* 21, 1872.

WHEN, on the 26th of June last, I had the honour to address your Lordship with reference to some legal expenditure that had been incurred in connection with the trial of persons implicated in the Robert murder, I availed myself of the opportunity to inform your Lordship that the case had been transferred for confirmation or revision to the higher tribunal of the capital, commonly called the Audiencia de Sevilla.

The proceedings of this court in respect of the above case, as I discovered during my late visit to Seville, will not be opened till the beginning of October, and I have no doubt every effort will be made in the meanwhile by the friends of the defendant, Fernandez, to secure, if possible, the ultimate cancellation of the sentence already recorded. How easily this could be effected, with a case almost wholly depending on adverse testimony and a weak Administration in power, I will not presume to point out to your Lordship.

During the trial of the case at Huelva, it was found absolutely necessary to engage a lawyer for the defence of the injured widow and children; and it is, in my opinion, equally requisite that a corresponding arrangement should be carried out at Seville. When, therefore, two or three days ago, I received through the Acting Consul at the latter place a message from Mrs. Robert that she had been called upon to name a lawyer to represent her before the Audiencia, and that only two days were allowed her for coming to any decision in the matter, I immediately telegraphed a reply recommending the nomination of Don Manuel Laraña, one of the most distinguished and trustworthy advocates of that city; and this has, accordingly, been carried into effect.

Should your Lordship be pleased to approve of what I have done in this matter, I trust I may be in due time informed, as it would, of course, be possible to cancel the appointment, before any considerable legal expenditure is incurred.

The case having now entered the limits of another Consular district, I would beg to suggest that it may be placed under the immediate and special charge of Mr. Consul Williams, who, from being officially related to the authorities of the locality and residing at the place of trial, will naturally be in a better position than myself to watch over and protect the British interests involved.

I need scarcely assure your Lordship that I shall continue as before to render every assistance in my power to bring this disagreeable business to a successful termination, and, as your Lordship will learn from the accompanying note, which I have just received from Mr. Diaz and beg to inclose, that officer will also be happy to co-operate to the best of his ability.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Mr. Diaz to Consul Reade.

(Translation.)
(Extract.)

Huelva, August 19, 1872.

BY your courteous communication of the 17th instant, I am informed that, in consequence of the widow of Mr. Robert having presented herself at the English Consulate at Seville and explained the difficulty under which she was placed with respect to an invitation she had received from the Audiencia to declare whether she intended to prosecute the case which is about to be tried at that Superior Tribunal against the authors of the death of the said Robert, you had telegraphed to our colleague at Seville that the widow should name as her lawyer, Don Manuel Laraña.

I do not think a better choice than the lawyer referred to could have been made, as Señor Laraña enjoys a worthy and very distinguished reputation.

I am of opinion that the appointment of a lawyer is very necessary, as the magistrates are always influenced a good deal by seeing that the prosecutor demands justice by every legal means in his power so that the law may be fulfilled and the guilty parties punished.

By the new procedure, the expenses already incurred by the Government in this unfortunate case will, of course, be sensibly increased.

The Consul at Seville could, I believe, very justly complain, if, while he is at that place, and the business in hand being an official one which has to be settled in his district, he were not entrusted with the charge of it, and I continued from this to take part in it. This is a sentiment of delicacy on my part which I think it my duty to submit to your consideration so that you may determine whether the Consul at Seville should take the matter under his charge, or I continue from here to act in the name of the British Government.

It would be well that Her Majesty's Minister should urge upon the Minister of Grace and Justice to recommend the case very particularly to the President of the Audiencia, as the friends of Fernandez will not fail to have brought great influences into play at Seville.

The Sergeant of the Guardia Civil, who is deputed specially by the Government to effect the capture of the runaway Fernandez, under the conviction that the latter is no longer in this neighbourhood, has passed over to Portugal, and is making his researches there. This man, as I have already told you, is in every way fitted for the commission, and, relying as I do on his intelligence and activity, we shall yet, I believe, attain our object of having the assassin captured.

No. 75.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 1, 1872.

IN his despatch of the 21st ultimo, Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz reports that having learned that the proceedings in regard to the Robert murder will commence before the Audiencia at Seville in the beginning of October, he has recommended the nomination of Señor Laraña to watch the case on behalf of Mrs. Robert, and that his recommendation has been carried into effect.

Mr. Reade further suggests that as the case has now entered the limits of the Consular district of Seville, it should be placed under the charge of Her Majesty's Consul at that place.

I have to state to you that I approve the nomination of Señor Laraña, and also the suggestion that the case should be placed under the charge of Her Majesty's Consul at Seville.

You will accordingly give the necessary directions to Consuls Reade and Williams, and you will instruct the latter to pay special attention to the case in which Her Majesty's Government take great interest.

Mr. Reade will of course furnish Mr. Williams with full information as to all that has hitherto taken place in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 76.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received April 8.)

My Lord, *Madrid, April 3, 1873.*

WITH reference to the correspondence which has taken place with this Legation relating to the assassination at Huelva of James Frederick Robert, a British subject, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Seville with the decision of the Tribunal of that city in this case. Your Lordship will perceive that the decision of the Huelva Tribunal has been reversed, and that all the parties to this shameful crime have been declared innocent, except the person who actually committed it, and who has not as yet been arrested. I have directed Mr. Williams to take such steps as may be necessary to appeal to the Superior Court at Madrid should your Lordship consider it desirable that such an appeal should be made. I regret, however, to have to express my opinion that such is the state of the administration of the law in this country that I have very little hope that justice will be obtained in this case.

Mr. Williams has forwarded to me a copy of the decision of the Seville Tribunal containing the statement of the grounds for it—a document of some length—which must be translated should your Lordship require it sent home. It can scarcely be translated in a satisfactory manner at Seville, and Mr. Hunt's time is so fully occupied that I shall have some difficulty in having the translation made here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

Consul Williams to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Seville, March 31, 1873.*

I BEG to inclose for your Excellency's information a copy of the sentence obtained from this tribunal on the Robert murder case, and a translation of the depositive part thereof, which, I am sorry to say, does not in any way redress for the present, the grievances of the complainant, Doña Carmen Martin, the widow of the unfortunate Mr. J. F. Robert, feloniously assassinated on the 2nd July, 1871, at San Juan del Puerto.

It is not easy to conciliate with the biddings the decision adopted with regard to the acquitment of Don Manuel F. Rodriguez, the father of the missing and contumacious culprit, Juan Fernandez Beltran.

If the Judge at Huelva, Don Jacobo Perez Trujo, and his (Promotor Fiscal) Attorney could find grounds on the 5th of June last to dictate a sentence in which Don Manuel F. Rodriguez was condemned to six years' transportation and to the payment of an indemnity of 20,000 pesetas to the poor widow of the deceased, and child, it does not seem fair that such sentence should have been revoked without alleging stronger reasons than those brought forward in the debates.

A good many of the "resultandoes" and "considerandoes" quoted by the magistrates as a base of their sentence are vague or gratuitous. The Report of the Attorney-General of this Tribunal is the main cause of this sad decision.

Under this dilemma I thought fit to have an immediate interview with the plaintiff's Counsel, Don Manuel Laraña, submitting to his decision the expediency of an application to the Supreme Tribunal at Madrid to get the sentence quashed.

He is acting upon this principle under the impression that if the sentence is not abrogated altogether, it is always important to controvert the opinion expressed in one of the "considerandoes" with regard to the late Mr. J. F. Robert's conduct, which may greatly favour in future the trial of the defendant, Juan Fernandez Beltran, whenever he is had or makes his appearance.

If your Excellency, however, upon your discretion, or as your legal adviser might recommend upon his inspection, should consider proper to resist this plea, there is time to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAN. J. WILLIAMS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

Sentence of the Tribunal at Seville.

(Translation.)

WE decree that, revoking the sentence proposed by the Judge at Huelva, we ought to acquit, and we freely acquit, Don Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez, and we order that he may be set at liberty immediately if he is not detained or imprisoned in consequence of another prosecution. We also freely acquit Doña Maria de Jesus Beltran, and we condemn José Villegas Rebollo as the acknowledged author of a perpetrated fault or misdemeanour to pay a fine of 10 pesetas, subject in case of insolvency to a couple of days' arrest by way of substitution and compulsion.

We definitely declare as official the two-thirds of the costs of the proceedings and the remainder for the present. We likewise declare there is no reason for prosecuting the Alcalde, Don Manuel Santa Maria Morales, nor the Physician, Don Juan Miguel Roberto, nor any other of the witnesses in the case for perjury, and we order that the roll of pleas be deposited in the archives with respect to the absent prosecuted party, Juan Fernandez Beltran, and that in conformity with the award of this Court, in the writ of this Court of the 12th of October, 1871, previous an audience of the Attorney-General, attested literal copies may be furnished of such of the proceedings as may be required for showing the conduct observed by the municipal Judge, Don Manuel Marquez, with reference to the prosecution and punishment of the fault committed against the person of Mr. James Frederick Robert, before the 2nd of July of said year, by the absent Fernandez Beltran, reporting thereon without delay so as to decide as it may be right.

Let an order be issued for the release of Don Manuel Fernandez in the form provided for cancelling the embargo of his property, and let the Judge at Huelva, Don Jacobo Perez Trujo, be informed that he ought to abstain in future from delaying the ratification of the writs of imprisonment beyond 72 hours, and let the process be returned in due course. Thus by this our sentence definitely adjudging we pronounce award and decree.

(Signed) JOSE PRIMO MARTINEZ.
EDUARDO TRILLO SALEYES.

(Signed) José Cisneros, *Reporter.*

Notified on the 21st March, 1873.

A correct translation of the substantial part of the sentence pronounced at the Tribunal of Seville on the 19th March, 1873, in the Robert murder case.

Seville, March 31, 1873.

(Signed) Man. J. Williams,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Seville.

No. 77.

Earl Granville to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 15, 1873, 3·50 P.M.

GET the decision of the Seville Court, referred to in your despatch of the 3rd instant, translated at Madrid, if possible. If not, send it in original.

No. 78.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received April 25.)

My Lord, *Madrid, April* 19, 1873.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 15th instant, I have the honour to enclose translation of the preliminary portion of the sentence of the Seville Court, in the case of the murder of Mr. J. F. Robert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Preliminary part of the Sentence of the Seville Court.

(Translation.)

IN the city of Seville, on the 19th of March, 1873, in the suit carried on in the Court of First Instance of Huelva, plaintiff, Doña Carmen Martin, for wounds and subsequent death to her husband, the British subject Mr. James Frederick Robert; defendant's son, Manuel Fernandez y Rodriguez, a native and inhabitant of San Juan del Puerto, proprietor and farmer, married, with children, knowing how to read and write, and 44 years of age; Doña Maria de Jesus Beltran y Sayazgo, also born, and living at San Juan del Puerto, the wife of the aforesaid Don Manuel Fernandez, educated, and 37 years of age; José Villegas Rebollo, born, and living in the same place, single, a barber, educated, and 17 years of age; and Juan Fernandez Beltran, absent.

The suit having come to this Superior Court in consultation as to the sentence which, on the 5th of June last, was issued by the Judge of First Instance of the above-mentioned Court, by which sentence Don Manuel Fernandez y Rodriguez was condemned to imprisonment for six years and a day, with the suspension of all his public duties, and of his right of suffrage during that time; to pay to Doña Carmen Martin, widow of Mr. James Frederick Robert, and to her children, 10,000 pesetas each, *i.e.*, 20,000 to the mother and child; and to pay the fourth-part of the costs; absolving, freely and without costs, José Villegas of crime of action ("delito de autos"), and inflicting on him instead for the offence he committed, five days' arrest, and 50 pesetas fine, and declaring official the fourth part of the costs that might have fallen to his share. Doña Maria de Jesus Beltram was also freely acquitted without costs; another fourth part of the costs being declared official, and the rest also for the present; and orders were given for making a certified copy of the depositions of the doctor of San Juan del Puerto, Don Miguel Roberto, of the records of the *post-mortem* examination, being the declaration of the Doctor of Figueros, Don Antonio Vazquez, who examined the wounded man, in order that whatever proceedings might be proper, might be taken against the former (Don Miguel Roberto). Orders were also given for making four separate documents of the depositions of the witnesses, José Cueva, Don Rafael Guimenez, Felipe Pulido, and Dionisio Pulido, in order to proceed against the same for perjury; and, lastly, orders were given for making a certificate of the state of the first sheet of the records of the suit which contains the deposition of the wounded man, and certified copies of the declarations of the Municipal Judge and Secretary, which refer thereto, in order that an opinion be formed on the subject in due time, according to right. It was also ordered that this suit be placed in the archives, as far as regards Juan Fernandez y Beltran, who is absent, until he may present himself, or be found. The suit was accompanied by a separate document, setting forth property embargoed from Don Manuel Fernandez. Señor Don Eduardo Trillo was the person reporting on the case.

Having examined the case—

1. It appears proved by witnesses that in the night of June 23, 1871, Mr. J. F. Robert gave at his house, situated in the town of San Juan del Puerto, a ball to which several families of that place came, and as several young men, and amongst them Juan Fernandez Beltran came into the ball-room, Robert told them that they could not stop there without his permission, and taking Fernandez Beltran, with whom he had a violent altercation, by the jacket, he succeeded in turning them all out into the street, and he afterwards shut the outer door.

2. It appears proved in the same manner that Juan Fernandez Beltran knocked more than once at the door of the house in order to go into the ball again, which was avoided by the Sergeant of the Civil Guard, who advised him to go away, and thus succeeded in removing him from the place, and in preventing disagreeable conflicts.

3. It appears proved, also, that in the night of the 30th of June of the same year Mr. J. F. Robert and his wife were going home, and on arriving at the Calle de Las Dos Plazas Robert was attacked by Juan Fernandez Beltran, who struck him, hurting him in the face apparently slightly.

4. It appears proved also by witnesses that when Robert's wife shouted for aid several persons came up, and amongst them Don Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez, the father of the aggressor.

5. It appears proved that the said Fernandez Rodriguez was immediately

informed of what his son had done, and that the Municipal Judge, Don Manuel Marquez, in spite of having also come up, and of having been told by Robert what had taken place a few moments before, took no steps to apply correction.

6. It appears proved that the said Robert recognized Juan Fernandez Beltran that night, and said there and then, in the Calle de las Dos Plazas, that he was the person who struck him.

7. It appears proved that on the morning of July 2 following Mr. J. F. Robert went to the house of Don José Toscano, situated in the Calle Real, and before arriving at the door of that house he asked Juan Quintero Contreras in the Plaza de La Iglesia if he knew Juan Fernandez Beltran, and when Contreras said he did, Robert asked him to tell him when the said young man went by, and Juan Quintero Contreras said he would with pleasure.

8. It appears proved that a short time afterwards Quintero saw a cart pass loaded with wheat and drawn by horses, which Juan Fernandez Beltran was taking along the causeway of the Calle Real, leading the horses by the halter, and then he ran to tell Robert as he had been requested.

9. It appears proved that when Robert heard this he went out of the entrance of the house of Don José Toscana, and went in the same direction as the cart, and went on until he approached Juan Fernandez Beltran at about fifty-seven paces distance of the said house, drew a sword (estoque) that he carried, and made unmistakeable signs of attacking Juan Fernandez Beltran.

10. It appears proved that then the accused, Don Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez, Deputy Mayor and father of the youth Juan, hastily approached, seized Mr. James Robert, and holding down the hand with which Mr. Robert held the sword, he held him from behind, shouting to his son to take the cart on to the threshing floor.

11. It appears proved that as Robert struggled to release himself from the hands of Don Manuel Rodriguez they both fell into the ditch, and a moment before the cart stopped, Juan Fernandez Beltran having gone towards the place where his father was holding Robert down.

12. It appears proved that Robert having been disarmed, got up with his face pale and distorted, and then José Villegas Rebollo, seizing the part of the stick which served as the sheath of the sword, which was already half broken, finished breaking it by striking Robert with it, who, covered with dust, without his hat, and with his clothes torn, went into the house of Fernando Hidalgo, and went out again immediately, complaining of a hurt on the left side of the belly, and saying that he was going to see the doctor about it, all which is also declared to be proved.

13. It results that in the night of July 2nd, or the day after the above-mentioned struggle, Mr. J. F. Robert died in consequence of the wound inflicted apparently with a dagger or knife in the stomach (regionilised), from left to right, in an outward and upward direction, three centimetres in length, one in width, and of a depth not ascertainable with a probe (for the latter touched no limit); the wound affected essential organs, and produced a peritonitis, which, affecting the diaphragm, prevented the expansion of the lungs, and was of necessity mortal, as it appears proved by the *post-mortem* examination.

14. It appears proved that although the doctor, Don Juan Miguel Roberto, on examining Robert, and applying the first remedies to him, declared that the hurt affected part of the transversal muscle, and was not serious, and on the 3rd he noticed in the patient all the symptoms of a pleuro-pneumonia, with the fever consequent thereon, yet such assertions might have been founded on the interposition of a clot of blood of the omentum, or of an intestine which might impede the progress of the probe, and in the case with which pathological symptoms present themselves in the pneumonic apparatus, as has been asserted by the doctors Don Carlos Cherizola and Don Fernandez Rodriguez.

15. It results that on the rest of the body of Mr. J. F. Robert there were found no injuries produced by blows violently given with an instrument producing a contusion, and this appears also proved.

16. It results that the sword had no vestige of blood upon it, as is proved by the chemical analysis that has been made of the marks upon it.

17. It results that the doctor of the Buitron Railway Company, Don Antonio Vayquez Zarandicta, having visited Robert on the afternoon of the 2nd July, did not observe that he had any fever, which symptom was observed next day by Don Francisco Rodriguez Rueda.

18. It results that nobody actually saw the infliction of the urt to Mr. J. F.

Robert on the morning of 2nd July, although Robert declared that Juan Fernandez Beltran, who is absent and cannot be captured in spite of the steps taken, wounded him with a knife.

19. It results that there are no proofs that Doña Maria de Jesus Beltran took part in the struggle with the said Robert on the morning of 2nd July.

20. It appears proved by the depositions of witnesses that the said Doña Maria was in her house when Robert was injured on the said morning, and did not go out of it, although she went to the door.

21. It results that the Judge of Huelva ordered certified copies to be made of several papers of the Sumario, and sent them to this Sala, in order to proceed against Don Manuel Santa Maria, the Mayor of San Juan del Puerto, and against Don Manuel Marquez, Municipal Judge of the same town, for faults of omission supposed to have been committed by them in the exercise of their respective functions.

22. It results that the said Sala, by decree of 14th October, 1871, ordered the said certified copies to be returned to the Judge of First Instance, in order that he might go on with this suit without prejudice to settling in time that which might be fit on learning the result of all the proceedings pending in that Court.

23. It results that the said suit having been brought up in consultation, the Procureur of Doña Carmen Martin drew up his accusation, demanding the revocation of the sentence, and the condemnation of Don Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez to penal servitude for life, and that of José Villegas to seven years' imprisonment, and he demanded the other accessory punishments respectively, and indemnification of 164,250 reals to the widow of Robert, and the acquittal of Doña Maria de Jesus Beltran.

24. It results that the Fiscal demanded the acquittal of Don Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez, and that it should be declared that there was no ground for proceeding against the Mayor, the Municipal Judge, any of the witnesses, nor the doctor, Don Juan Miguel Roberto, and he demanded that the case be placed in the archives as regards the absent Juan Fernandez Beltran, adding, that he considers the acts imputed to the other accused persons as private (" privados ").

25. It results that the Procureur of Fernandez Rodriguez drew up a document of defence, demanding his free acquittal, and the confirmation of the sentence as regards Doña Maria de Jesus Beltran.

26. It results that the defender of José Villegas also drew up a document, acquiescing in the remarks of the Fiscal, and after this the case was examined with all the legal requirements.

(1.) Considering that the act of inflicting a wound upon Mr. J. F. Robert, which of necessity caused his death on the following day, is an act of homicide, for its performance involved none of the essential and characteristic circumstances of parricide or assassination pointed out in Articles 417 and 418 of the Penal Code:

(2.) Considering that an offence against the individual is constituted by the act of aggression committed in the night of 30th June, 1871, in the Calle de los Dos Plazas, which caused an injury to Robert, which did not prevent him from attending to his habitual work, and did not force him to call in the doctor, which is a case provided for in Article 603:

(3.) Considering that a like description belongs, according to Article 604, to the act of striking Robert with a stick, when he got up from the ground after struggling with Don Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez, because it is not shown that Robert was injured by those blows:

(4). Considering that the penal action for prosecution on account of these two last-mentioned Acts is not limited (" prescrita "), in spite of the time which has gone by since their commission, because proceedings were taken before two months had elapsed, and they are still pending:

(5.) Considering that there is nothing to prove the existence of reasonable motives for doubting the veracity of the doctor, Don Juan Miguel Roberto, because two other doctors have shown possibility of Roberto's not being able to introduce a probe into Mr. T. F. Robert's wound further than the transversal muscle, although the wound was very much deeper, and because, if on the 2nd of July, Dr. Vayquez Zarandicta did not observe symptoms of fever in the patient, they developed themselves on the following day, as is confirmed by the professional declaration of Don Francisco Rodriguez, and it was then very easy to consider the sufferings of the breathing apparatus as the principal illness, even although the pathological

condition of those sufferings might be due to other causes directly springing from the injury inflicted on the victim:

(6.) Considering that the act done by Don Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez on the morning of 2nd July is not punishable, because if every man is under the moral obligation of preventing the commission of a crime commenced by external acts, this duty is stronger still in a father who sees the life of his son in imminent danger, and rushes to hold back the aggressor, whose hand is about to strike his son with a murderous weapon:

(7.) Considering that there are no reasonable data in the suit for presuming that the said Fernandez Rodriguez overstepped the just limits of the said unpunishable act, for nobody saw him wound Robert, nobody saw him use more violence than that which was indispensable to prevent Robert from effecting his criminal purpose, and his first care was to call out to his son, J. Fernandez Beltran, to go away with his brother, and take the cart to the threshing floor.

(8.) Considering that all the acts of Mr. J. F. Robert, done before the struggle, reveal the irrevocable intention of a man who, tired of suffering gross and unmerited outrages, conceives the intention of killing the person inflicting those outrages, arms himself, seeks him, waits for him, and finishes by rushing to the execution of the premeditated crime when he sees his enemy near him:

(9.) Considering that the innocence of Doña Maria de Jesus Beltran is proved, for it is not shown that she committed any act of violence against the person of Robert, nor was it possible for her to have taken part in the struggle sustained by her husband Fernandez Rodriguez, for at that moment she was in her house.

(10.) Considering that José Villegas Rebollo committed an offence by striking the unfortunate Robert without danger of retaliation, when Robert was already badly injured; but that, as under the age of eighteen, and over that of fifteen years he should suffer the penalty next below that which is marked by the law:

(11.) Considering that there is no sufficient reason for taking action for perjury against the witnesses who have deposed in the suit, for it does not appear that they bore false witness, nor are the contradictions of some of them essential, for common sense repels the exaggerated importance given to contradictions in details:

(12.) Considering that there are no well-founded motives for proceeding against the Mayor of San Juan del Puerto, Don Manuel Santa Maria Morales, for, although he was present at the ball in the house of Robert, there was no necessity of his interference to cause J. Fernandez Beltran to leave off knocking at the door, because the latter had already gone away by the advice of the sergeant of the Civil Guard, nor is it proved that on that night Robert was struck, for no one witnesses to this fact except the widow and a brother of hers; and lastly, because it does not appear that he subsequently withheld direct and open co-operation to the advantage of judicial action:

(13.) Considering that the indolence of the Municipal Judge, Don Manuel Marquez, as to officially taking steps to punish the unjustifiable aggression which Mr. J. F. Robert was suffering at the hands of Juan Fernandez Beltran, and the obvious partiality of his conduct on the night of the 30th June, lead to the belief that there are grounds for taking criminal proceedings against him:

14. Considering that, when any of the criminals are absent, the suit should be placed in the archives, as far as regards them, without prejudice to finishing it first as regards the accused persons present:

In view of Articles 1, 86, and 604 of the Penal Code, Article 19 of the Provisional Law of 18th June, 1870, No. 3 of Article 276 of the Law of Organization of the Judicial Powers, Articles 87 and 89 of the Law for Criminal Procedure, and Rule 4 of the Royal Decree of 22nd December last:

We give sentence.

(The actual sentence was inclosed in Mr. Layard's despatch of the 3rd April, 1873.)*

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* No. 76.

No. 79.

Mr. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 3.)

My Lord, *Madrid, April* 29, 1873.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 19th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in pursuance of my instructions, Her Majesty's Consul at Seville has procured and forwarded to me a certified copy of the decision of the Tribunal of that city, acquitting the persons concerned in the assassination of Robert, which secures the right of appeal to the Supreme Court of Madrid in the event of Her Majesty's Government considering it desirable that such appeal should be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 80.

Mr. Dyett to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 19.)

Buitron and Huelva Railway and Mineral Company,
My Lord, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., March* 19, 1874.

I AM instructed by the Directors of this Company to refer your Lordship to a correspondence that took place in 1872 between myself and Her Majesty's Foreign Office in respect to the murder of a British subject named James Robert, in Huelva, Spain. The last communication that we have seen is from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, dated Madrid, 17th September, 1873, stating that this Legation has fully acquainted Her Majesty's Government with every detail that has come to its knowledge concerning the affair of Mr. James Roberts.

The widow of Mr. Robert has come over to this country to endeavour to prevail upon Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to use his influence with the Spanish Government to get her some compensation for the loss she has sustained, and of her having been left in great poverty in consequence of the murder of her husband; and the Directors venture to hope that your Lordship will give her case your favourable consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT, *Secretary.*

No. 81.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1874.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, respecting the widow of James Roberts, who was murdered in 1871 at Huelva, in Spain; and, in reply, I am to acquaint you that the whole correspondence connected with this case has been referred to the Law Officers of the Crown for their opinion in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 82.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 17, 1874.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acquaint you, for the information of the Directors of the Buitron and Huelva Railway Company, that his Lordship referred to the Law Officers of the Crown your letter of the 19th ultimo, relating to the murder of James Robert at Huelva, in 1871.

His Lordship does not clearly understand whether an appeal against the sentence of the Seville Courts in this case has or has not been proceeded with, and no information upon this point has as yet been received from Her Majesty's Minister

at Madrid; but Lord Derby is advised that whether this Appeal has or has not been prosecuted, there is no ground upon which Her Majesty's Government can apply to the Spanish Government to make compensation to the widow of J. Robert, on account of her sufferings and poverty consequent upon, and resulting from, his death.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 83.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 18, 1874.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 29th of April, 1873, respecting Mr. Robert's murder at Huelva, I transmit to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter which, after consultation with the Law Officers of the Crown, I have caused to be addressed to the Directors of the Buitron and Huelva Railway Company in the matter.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 84.

Mr. Dyett to Lord Tenterden.—(Received April 20.)

My Lord, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., April* 18, 1874.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of 17th instant, stating that Lord Derby had referred my letter of the 19th of February, with reference to the widow of James Robert, to the Law Officers of the Crown, and that they have given their opinion that there is no ground upon which Her Majesty's Government can apply to the Spanish Government for compensation for the suffering the widow had undergone.

However we may regret that this is the case, I beg to thank his Lordship for the consideration he has given to the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT.

No. 85.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 28.)

My Lord, *Madrid, June* 15, 1874.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 18th of April last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, transmitting to me translation of the sentence pronounced by the Audiencia of Seville, in the case of the assassination of James Frederick Robert, a British subject, and of the act of confirmation of that sentence by the highest Court of Appeal at Madrid.

The full details of this instance of a scandalous denial of justice on the part of Spanish tribunals are before your Lordship. I understand that the widow of the murdered man has married again, and that there is now no way of reopening this case according to Spanish law, nor do I believe that diplomatic action would be of the slightest avail in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* No. 82.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Cadiz, June* 11, 1874.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of 27th ultimo, whereby I am instructed to report upon the present state of the case instituted against the parties implicated in the murder of Mr. James Frederick Robert, which took place at San Juan del Puerto, on 2nd July, 1871.

Having communicated the purport of your Excellency's instruction to the British Vice-Consul at Seville, I have, with his assistance, obtained a copy of the sentence pronounced upon the above-mentioned case by the "Audiencia of Seville" on 19th March, 1873, and of the act of confirmation of that sentence, or judgment, subsequently awarded by the "Tribunal Supremo," or highest Court of Appeal, at Madrid.

Of this document I beg herewith to inclose a copy and translation.

Your Excellency will perceive that the whole of the parties implicated in the murder, with the exception of the unarrested assassin, Juan Fernandez Beltran, have been acquitted and set at liberty, and that the judgment of the Seville Court is based upon considerations which would lead probably to the acquittal also of the said Juan Fernandez, if he were to surrender himself to the authority of a Spanish tribunal.

Care is taken to show that the unfortunate Mr. Robert was not only the real aggressor in the conflict that led to his untimely death, but that, for some days prior to the fatal occurrence, he had actually premeditated the murder of his adversary, Fernandez, and that he met with his death wound in some unaccountable way, while efforts were being made by the elder Fernandez to restrain him from the consummation of his murderous intention.

The particulars of this case are already too well known to your Excellency to necessitate recapitulation on the present occasion. They are given, and with perhaps, too much diffuseness, in my past communications to your Excellency's office, and notably in those of the 8th, 11th, and 29th July, 5th and 31st August, and 1st, 2nd, 15th, and 23rd September, 1871, and in the 4th and 6th of February, 2nd of March, and 6th and 8th of July, 1872.

As this murder was committed in the broad light of day, in the principal square of a town, and before hundreds of witnesses, and the circumstances under which it was perpetrated acquired a notoriety which not all the zealous and unremitting exertions of influential partizans, nor the constrained disinclination of witnesses to testify to the truth, were able to suppress, and as, independently of the moral conviction which was entertained on all sides that Manuel Fernandez y Rodriguez and the other defendants in the suit were guilty of the unprovoked assassination of the Englishman, the culpability of those parties has, despite the almost overwhelming opposition of the said partizans, been proved to the satisfaction of not only the judicial authorities before whom the case was originally tried, but also of Don Antonio Leon, a "Magistrado" from Seville, who proceeded to Huelva as a special commissioner to investigate the affair, a feeling of profound indignation must necessarily be aroused in the minds of all right-thinking persons who are conversant with the above circumstances, and peruse the accompanying paper.

It will be seen that an appeal against the decision of the Seville Court having been addressed to the Supreme Tribunal at Madrid, by the widow of the murdered man, it was rejected on 17th June, 1873, on the ground that it was not made within the term specified by law.

I apprehend, consequently, that, so far as Spanish law is concerned, no further action can now be taken in the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Sentences passed by the Audiencia of this Province, and by the Tribunal Supremo de Justicia, in the cause prosecuted against Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez, Juan Fernandez Beltran, Maria de Jesus Beltran, and Jose Villegas Rebollo, for the killing of the British subject, Mr. James Frederick Robert.

[For the Sentence dated 19th March, 1873, see Inclosure in No. 83.]

Tribunal Supremo, Office of the Secretary of the "Sala Segunda."

Very Illustrious Sir,

In the "Expediente," No. 2,675, with reference to the admittance of the appeal submitted by Doña Carmen Martin Boya, the complainant in the cause against Manuel Fernandez Rodriguez, and others, for the homicide of a British subject, the Sala Segunda of this Supreme Tribunal has recorded this day the following act:—

Whereas the evidence of this case was handed over to the Procurator of the appealing party, for the purposes of this appeal, on the 18th of last April, since which date have transpired more than the twenty days which are conceded by Article 15 of the Law of the 18th of June, 1870, without such appeal being effected: Considering that, according to what is prescribed by the said Article, if the sentence is not appealed against within the term indicated, it must hold good and be regarded as consented to: We declare to belong to this category the sentence pronounced by the Criminal Court of the Audiencia of Seville in the cause in which a charge was preferred against the said Don Manuel Fernandez for homicide, at the instance of Doña Carmen Martin Boya, whom we condemn to pay the costs, ordering that this act be brought to the knowledge of the Audiencia of Seville, in order that the same may be carried into effect.

I have the honour to communicate the above to your Excellency for your guidance, awaiting a reply in acknowledgment of its receipt.

God preserve, &c.

(Signed) LDO (illegible).

Madrid, June 19, 1873.

To the Very Illustrious President of the Audiencia of Seville.

Seville, August 19, 1873.

Whereas, in pursuance of the sentence awarded in the preceding case, at the demand of the Public Notary, Don Bernabé Asensio, on the 20th of March of the present year, it was, amongst other dispositions, ordered that such testimony be produced as was necessary to demonstrate the nature of the proceedings adopted by the Juez Municipal of San Juan del Puerto, Don Manuel Marquez, with reference to the investigation and punishment of the offences committed on the person of Mr. James Frederick Robert, anteriorly to the 2nd of July, 1871: Whereas, on an appeal being made against the said sentence, the latter was ordered to be carried into execution, and an order to that effect was issued on the 1st of last July: Whereas proceedings in respect of the particular matter referred to above were instituted separately from the general hearing of this cause; they were entered upon on the 19th of October, 1871, by the Notary, Don Antonio Maria Solano, and, by an Act of the 24th of January of the present year, they were relinquished as insusceptible of any further progress:

Considering that the circumstances relative to the conduct pursued by the Juez Municipal of San Juan del Puerto, Don Manuel Marquez, with reference to the investigation and punishment of the assault committed on the person of Mr. James Frederick Robert, anteriorly to the 2nd of July, 1871, have already been inquired into and determined upon, that part of the instruction issued for execution on the 20th of March last, relative to the above-mentioned circumstances, must remain without effect: In conformity with the judgment of the Ministerio Fiscal, the particular instruction relative to the conduct pursued by the Juez Municipal, Don Manuel Marquez, in respect of the investigation and punishment of the above-mentioned offences, is hereby left without effect, and the cause sent back to the Juzgado (the Court in which it was originally tried) duly certified; the evidence instituted, as above described, separately from the main proceedings, being

forwarded to the office of the Public Notary, Don Antonio Solano. In faith of which the undersigned gentlemen have so determined and signed.

(Signed) JUAN DE VEGA.
FRANCISCO DE P. AURIOLES.
EDUARDO TRILLO SALEYES, *Reporting Counsel.*
JOSE MA. AGUILAR Y DOMINGUEZ.
BERNABE ASENSIO.

Seville, June 3, 1874.

True copy:

(Signed) LUIS AMOZCOTEGUI DE SAAVEDRA.

No. 86.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Macdonell.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 18, 1874.

I HAVE referred to the Law Officers of the Crown Mr. Layard's despatches of the 15th ultimo, relative to the failure of justice in regard to the murder at Huelva, in July 1871, of Mr. James Frederick Robert; and I have to state to you, in reply, that I am advised that no further steps can properly be taken in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 87.

Mrs. Robert to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 22.)

My Lord, *No.* 1, *Calle Nueva de San Fernando, Seville, July* 15, 1874.

I BEG leave to represent to your Lordship, as the widow and representative of the late Mr. Frederick Robert, formerly of San Juan del Puerto, near Huelva, on my own behalf and that of our legitimate children, that our exertions and charges against the offenders and murderers of the above-stated husband, before the Courts of Justice at Huelva and Seville, not having hitherto produced the legal punishment of the murderers, and the definitive resolution of the Tribunal not having been given since the whole proceedings and documents were ordered to be laid aside at the archives of the Court at Seville, to be opened again whenever the absconded criminal should be taken up; therefore, considering myself deprived, till such may be the case, of being received or heard at the Tribunal, I cannot perceive the day of receiving the redress and compensation my sufferings and utter destitution of my children deserve.

I have, therefore, to request that your Excellency may be good enough to take such steps as may be right under the circumstances, and may, as a special case of distress of wronged British subjects, instruct Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz to treat this contingency in such a manner as may avoid my children being naked and forced to starve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARMEN H. ROBERT.

No. 88.

Lord Tenterden to Mrs. Robert.

Madam, *Foreign Office, July* 29, 1874.

IN reply to your letter of the 15th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you, that his Lordship greatly regrets the apparent failure of justice that has taken place in regard to the death of your husband; but that, after full consideration and consultation with the Law Officers of the Crown, his Lordship has been advised that Her Majesty's Government can take no further steps in the matter.

Lord Derby, therefore, regrets that he is unable to comply with your request for assistance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 89.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 1.)

My Lord, *Madrid, October 21, 1875.*

THE circumstances connected with the murder at Huelva, of Mr. Robert, a British subject, are so well known at the Foreign Office, that it is unnecessary for for me to recapitulate them.

I received a telegram last week from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, informing me that Juan Fernandez, the murderer, who had hitherto been in concealment, had presented himself to the Judge at Huelva; and that there was reason to fear that means had been taken to enable him to escape the punishment which he deserves.

I lost no time in speaking to the Count Casa Valencia on the subject; and I placed at the same time the enclosed Memorandum in his hands. He promised to communicate a copy of it to the Minister of Grace and Justice. I have very little hope that it will have the effect of bringing Juan Fernandez to justice; but I have thought it my duty to let the Spanish Government know that we have not forgotten the disgraceful case in which all the accomplices in the murder were acquitted; and that we still insist upon the proper trial of the murderer himself.

I have the honour to enclose copy of a despatch relating to this matter, which I have received from Mr. Reade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

Memorandum.

IN the year 1871, a British subject, James Frederick Robert, was brutally assassinated at Huelva, by Juan Fernandez y Beltran, the son of the second Alcalde of that place. The murderer escaped. The Judge of Primera Instancia, who tried the case, deferred sentence until he should have been captured. His father, who had been an accomplice in the murder, was condemned to six years and one day penal servitude, and 4,000 dollars fine, to be devoted to the widow and children of the murdered man. The mother, who was also an accomplice, was acquitted. On the official physician, who had given a false certificate as to the cause of death, no sentence was passed. Upon appeal to the Superior Tribunal at Seville, the sentence of the Judge of Huelva was reversed, and all were acquitted, except José Villegas Rebollo, another accomplice, on whom a fine of 10 pesetas was imposed. Juan Fernandez still remained in concealment.

A prolonged correspondence took place with reference to this case between this Legation and the Department of State, Her Majesty's Government having been greatly concerned at this notorious miscarriage of justice.

Juan Fernandez, the murderer, has now, it appears, presented himself before the Judge at Huelva; and there is reason to fear, unless orders be given from Madrid that the matter be treated with becoming severity, he will succeed in escaping the punishment he deserves. After the repeated promises made to Her Majesty's Government that the criminal, J. Fernandez, should be brought to justice, it cannot be doubted that such orders will be sent to the authorities at Huelva.

Madrid, October 15, 1875.

Inclosure 2 in No. 89.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Cadiz, October 14, 1875.*

BY a despatch received this day from the British Vice-Consul at Huelva, I am informed that Juan Fernandez, the assassin of Frederick Robert, an Englishman, whose death at San Juan del Puerto in the month of July, 1871, had presented himself before the Juez de Primera Instancia at Huelva for the purpose of being tried upon the charge under which he has for so long a period lain.

It is further notified to me that Don Enrique Gomez, the representative of

Mrs. Robert, the prosecutrix in this case, and other parties therein interested had also been cited to appear before the said Judge, and did so appear at the same time as the criminal Juan Fernandez.

The unusual precipitation with which this case has been resumed leads me to fear that some undue influence or pressure is being brought to bear for the purpose of procuring the acquittal of the defendant.

To obviate, if possible, so scandalous a failure of justice, it has occurred to me that, subject to your Excellency's judgment, some special commands may with advantage be addressed by the Ministers of Grace and Justice, and of the Home Department to the Judicial and other authorities at Huelva, with a view to insure a just and satisfactory termination of this affair. I have accordingly forwarded to your Excellency the following telegram:—

"Juan Fernandez, murderer of the Englishman Robert, has presented himself before Judge at Huelva. Case against him resumed apparently with suspicious precipitation. Orders from higher authorities should, I think, be given for matter to be treated with becoming severity."

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 90.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1875.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 21st ultimo, and in reply I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the Memorandum you addressed to the Spanish Government with reference to the murder of Mr. Robert at Huelva in 1871.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 91.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1875.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th of March, 1874, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to acquaint you that a despatch dated October 21 has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, reporting that having been informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz that Juan Fernandez, the murderer of Mr. Roberts, had presented himself before the Judge of Huelva, he had again called the attention of the Spanish Government to the matter with a view to orders being sent to the authorities at that place to bring the criminal to justice.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 92.

Mr. Dyett to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 6.)

My Lord, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., November* 5, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge your Lordship's letter of November 4, stating that the Earl of Derby had requested you to inform me that Juan Fernandez, the murderer of our foreman, Mr. Robert, had presented himself before the Judge at Huelva, and that Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid had called the attention of the Spanish Government to this, with a view to bringing the criminal to justice.

I beg to thank your Lordship for giving me this information, which I shall communicate to our manager at Huelva, and I trust some active measures may be taken, though I fear, unless strong pressure is put upon the Spanish Government, this Juan Fernandez will not receive the punishment his crime deserves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT, *Secretary.*

No. 93.

Mr. Dyett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 14.)

(Extract.) 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., December* 14, 1875.

I HAVE a further communication from Huelva, on the subject of Juan Fernandez, which appears to me of much importance, and calls for the interference of your Lordship.

I am informed that Mr. Diaz, Her Majesty's Consul in Huelva, stated to our agent that nothing would be done to Robert's murderer, as the Government had refused to spend any money in paying a lawyer to act for the widow; there is no accuser even, and he will be released.

Surely, in a case like this, where a British subject is barbarously murdered in cold blood, Her Majesty's Government will not refuse to allow our Consul to retain a lawyer to act for the poor widow, and on her behalf to press the matter in Madrid, so as to get, if not the justice we should expect, at least some compensation for the widow and the orphan.

No. 94.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, and to state to you, in reply, that authority was given to Her Majesty's Representative in Madrid in August 1871 to defray the expenses of prosecuting the murderers of Mr. James Robert, should the Spanish Government decline to undertake the prosecution; and that Mr. Layard will be instructed to act upon that authority if it should be found necessary to do so.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 95.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th ultimo, I transmit to you herewith copy of a further letter from the Buitron and Huelva Railway Company relative to the Robert murder.*

With regard to the request of the Company that Her Majesty's Government will sanction the employment of a lawyer to conduct the prosecution of Juan Fernandez, I have to remind you that Earl Granville's telegram to Mr. Ffrench of August 9, 1871, instructed him to authorize Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz to defray the law expenses for prosecuting the murderers of Robert, in case the Spanish Government should decline to undertake the prosecution.

If, therefore, you should be unable to induce the Spanish Government to take up the matter in earnest, I have to request that you will act without delay upon the instructions contained in Lord Granville's above-mentioned telegram.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 96.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 27, 1875.

IN the letter from the Treasury to Viscount Enfield of August 9, 1871, it was stated that the Lords of the Treasury would be prepared to sanction the payment out of the public funds of any expenses which might be incurred in bringing to justice the assassin of the British subject James F. Robert, who was murdered at San Juan del Puerto, in Spain, while in the service of the Buitron and Huelva Mining

* No. 93.

and Railway Company, in the event of the Spanish Government declining to undertake the prosecution.

In accordance with that letter, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid was instructed by telegraph on the same day to authorize Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz to defray the expense of the prosecution should the Spanish Government decline to undertake it.

The proceedings which followed were extremely dilatory, in spite of the efforts of Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Agents, and they unfortunately resulted in all the accused persons being declared innocent, with the exception of one named Juan Fernandez, who was not in custody.

This man has now surrendered, and as it has been represented to the Earl of Derby that he is likely to be released, in consequence of there being no one to prosecute him, his Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid a despatch, copy of which I am to inclose,* for the information of the Lords of the Treasury, authorizing him, if necessary, to act upon the instructions contained in Lord Granville's telegram of August 9, 1871.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 97.

Mr. Dyett to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received December* 31.)

My Lord, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., December* 30, 1875.

I AM duly in receipt of the letter you were good enough, by desire of the Earl of Derby, to address to me of 27th instant, stating that Mr. Layard will be instructed to act upon the authority given to Her Majesty's Representative in Madrid in August 1861 to defray the expenses of prosecuting the murderers of James Robert, should the Spanish Government decline to do so.

I am instructed to convey to the Earl of Derby the Directors' thanks for his attention to their request, and to say a copy of your letter has been forwarded on to our manager in Huelva.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT, *Secretary.*

No. 98.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 28.)

My Lord, *Madrid, January* 20, 1876.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 27th ultimo, and to previous correspondence on the subject of the murder of the British subject Robert, I have the honour to inclose a translation of a note which I have received from Señor Calderon Collantes, in reply to a memorandum which I placed in his Excellency's hands with regard to the advisability of the appointment of a special Judge to undertake the case.

I have not failed, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, to remind Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz that authority has already been granted by Her Majesty's Government for the employment of a lawyer to watch the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Señor Calderon Collantes to Mr. Layard.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Palacio, January* 4, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have reminded my colleague, the Minister of Grace and Justice, of the question of the Spanish subject

* No. 95.

Juan Fernandez, sentenced *in contumaciam* by the Court of Huelva, as being responsible for the murder of the English subject James Frederick Robert, which took place at San Juan del Puerto in 1871, in order that the circumstances under which he presented himself to the Court, the resolutions taken by the latter, and all other facts which might contribute to form a precise opinion with regard to the case, may be explained.

As regards the nomination of a special Judge to take fresh cognizance of this case, which your Excellency proposes as a means of avoiding any considerable delay in consequence of the excessive amount of work which presses on the Huelva Court, I have much regret in informing your Excellency that it is not possible to ask the Minister of Grace and Justice to adopt such a course, owing to the organic law of the judicial power being in opposition thereto, as it only permits the appointment of special Judges for the examination of cases which are in the "Sumario" stage, and not for such as have already gone through all the formalities, and which have been brought to an issue, as has been the one alluded to in the present note.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) CALDERON COLLANTES.

No. 99.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 27, 1876.

WITH reference to my letter of the 27th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that a despatch has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid reporting that the Spanish Government are unable to accede to his proposal to appoint a special Judge to preside at the trial of the murderer of J. F. Robert, as such a course would be contrary to the organic law of the judicial power in Spain. The attention of the Minister of Justice has, however, been called to all the circumstances of the case by his colleague, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Layard also states that he has reminded Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz that authority has already been granted him by Her Majesty's Government to employ a lawyer to watch the case.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 100.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 27, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 20th instant, and I have to state to you, in reply, that I approve the steps you have taken, as therein reported, with regard to the case of the murderer of the British subject Robert.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 101.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(Extract.) *Madrid, March* 6, 1876.

WITH reference to the correspondence which has taken place with this Legation, respecting the trial of Juan Fernandez for the assassination of James Robert, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz, forwarding to me a report from the British Vice-Consul at Huelva. Your Lordship will learn by them that the assassin has been acquitted by the Huelva Tribunal, and that only ten days are allowed to the widow to appeal against the sentence to the superior tribunal of Seville.

I have authorized Mr. Reade to send an advocate from Cadiz to act for the widow.

It was evident from the first that Juan Fernandez would be acquitted, and, had I not pressed the case here, it is probable that he would not have been tried at all, or the mere farce of a trial would have been gone through.

As soon as his political friends and protectors were supreme in Huelva, he returned to that place with impunity. On receiving Mr. Reade's despatch I went immediately to Señor Calderon Collantes, and represented to him the painful impression that this scandalous miscarriage of justice would make upon Her Majesty's Government. I urged his Excellency to write to Señor Bugallal, the Fiscal of the Supreme Tribunal, to ensure the proper trial of the assassin, which he promised he would do at once. However, I regret to say, that I have very little hope of justice being done in this case.

The manner in which the assassin, and all those who were concerned in the murder of Robert, have, after their first condemnation, been fully acquitted, offers one of the strongest instances, amongst the many that I grieve to say have been brought to my notice, of the difficulty, almost indeed amounting to the impossibility, of obtaining justice from them where a foreigner is concerned.

Inclosure 1 in No. 101.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Cadiz, March* 2, 1876.

REFERRING your Excellency to my past communication on the subject of the trial of J. Fernandez, the murderer of the Englishman Robert, I regret to have to report that intelligence reached me this day from the Vice-Consul at Huelva to the effect that the above trial has terminated in the acquittal of the assassin.

I have accordingly transmitted to your Excellency the following telegram :—

"Trial of Fernandez terminated, assassin acquitted. Ten days only allowed for appeal to Seville. Have telegraphed offer to help widow, in case she may require assistance at Seville."

From the inclosed translation of the Vice-Consul's despatch, in which the above information is conveyed, your Excellency will learn that only ten days are accorded to the widow of the murdered man to appeal against the sentence of the Huelva Judge to the higher Tribunal of the Audiencia of Seville.

Some little hope that the appeal may not be made in vain is afforded by the fact that Don Antonio Leon, the Magistrado, who proceeded to Huelva in 1871, for the purpose of investigating the charges against the assassin's father, holds the appointment of Presidente de lo Criminal de la Audiencia.

Unless, however, some special interest in the case is manifested by the Supreme Authorities of the capital, even Don Antonio's influential voice will, I fear, be overborne by the machinations of the criminal's friends.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 101.

Vice-Consul Diaz to Consul Reade.

(Translation.)

(Extract.) *Huelva, February* 29, 1876.

THE prosecuting Attorney has just shown me a copy of the sentence come to by this Judicial Court in the case of the murder of Mr. James Frederick Robert.

The Judge, in accordance with the opinions of the Fiscal (Attorney-General), has pronounced his sentence, acquitting Juan Fernandez y Beltran, declaring the expenses to be for the Government account, and allowing the widow ten days for appealing against his decision to the Audiencia of Seville, where the case is referred to for approval.

Ten days only are allowed for the appeal, and it is necessary that it should be made within this stated time, as, if it is presented afterwards, no further action in the case will be admitted.

The post is on the point of departure, and I do not wish to delay sending you this disagreeable information, in order that you may determine what is to be done at Seville.

No. 102.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 6th instant, and its inclosures, relative to the acquittal, by the Huelva Tribunal, of Juan Fernandez, the person accused of the murder of James Robert; and I have to state to you that I approve the steps you have taken, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch, with a view to obtain justice in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 103.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

My Lord, *Madrid, March* 10, 1876.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 27th December last, I have the honour to state that I have this day instructed Mr. Consul Reade to draw a bill on your Lordship for the sum of 50*l.*, in order to defray the expenses of the prosecution of the murderers of J. Robert.

I requested Mr. Reade to forward to me the proper vouchers for such payments, for transmission to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 104.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1876.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 10th instant, I have to state to you that I approve your having authorized Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz to draw a bill upon me for 50*l.*, in order to defray the expenses of the prosecution of the murderers of J. Robert.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 105.

Mr. Dyett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

My Lord, 37, *Lime Street, London, E.C., March* 23, 1876.

WITH reference to the various communications that I have had the honour of addressing to you on the same subject, I have now to call your Lordship's attention to a statement in the "Times" of 22nd March, page 6, headed "The Huelva Murder Case," and to ask you if Her Majesty's Government will allow the matter to rest as it is.

When I saw the paragraph among the telegraphic news in the "Times" of the 8th March, that the murderer of James Robert had been acquitted and set at large, I at once wrote out to Spain to know if it were true. Before again trespassing upon your Lordship's time, and though I have received as yet no reply to my query, I cannot, in the face of such a statement, any longer refrain from again urging your Lordship to take the matter in hand, for I cannot for a moment believe that Her Majesty's Government will permit an inoffensive British subject to be barbarously murdered in cold blood with impunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARK DYETT.

No. 106.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

My Lord, *Madrid, March* 18, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch to me from Mr. Consul Reade, respecting the conduct of the Huelva Judge in endeavouring to defeat the right of appeal of the widow of J. F. Robert, to the Audiencia at Seville, against his sentence acquitting his murderer, and a copy of a note that I have, in consequence, addressed to Señor Calderon Collantes.

I called upon his Excellency this morning, and represented to him, in the strongest terms that I considered it becoming to use, the conduct of the Huelva Judge, and the manifest attempts made to screen the murderer of a British subject. I ventured to suggest to his Excellency the painful impression that the facts of this case would make if published, as they probably would be, on public opinion in England as to the administration of justice in Spain.

I received the usual promises that the matter should be at once inquired into, but unless peremptory orders are sent from Madrid—orders intended to be executed—to the authorities at Seville, I much fear than the political and family influences said to be exercised in favour of the assassin will be amply sufficient to secure his acquittal.

I have done all that I could possibly do in this matter, and have made the most urgent remonstrances to Señor Calderon Collantes with reference to it, every time that I have seen his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. .106

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Cadiz, March* 16, 1876.

IN connection with the judicial proceedings lately terminated in a sentence of acquittal of Juan Fernandez, the murderer of Mr. James Frederick Robert, I have the honour to bring under your Excellency's notice the following circumstances as constituting, on the part of the Judge at Huelva, an irregularity, whereby the exercise of the right of appeal against that sentence was seriously obstructed, and all but defeated. The sentence of the Huelva Tribunal was passed on the 26th ultimo, but it was not made known to the Vice-Consul until three days after. When, two days later still, the notice of appeal on the widow's behalf was given, the Judge declined to admit it, saying he had already forwarded all the papers of the case to the Audiencia at Seville. On learning by telegraph that difficulties were put in the way of an appeal, I wired again a message insisting upon the appeal, and directing Mr. Diaz to have a protest recorded in the usual notarial form against the Judge if he should persist in his refusal to admit an appeal. The matter was thereupon arranged by the Judge forwarding the appeal himself to the Audiencia. Since then Mr. Mena, the lawyer retained as counsel for the prosecution, has proceeded to Seville, and put all these preliminaries in order; but, to effect this, he had to obtain from the widow at Huelva a fresh power of attorney, naming a new man at Seville as her procurador, and ere all could be arranged, the ten days' term of appeal had well nigh expired.

A translation of the telegrams to which I have above referred is herewith transmitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

P.S.—Mr. Mena has caused a note of the above-stated irregularity to be recorded in the proceedings of the Audiencia.

T. F. R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

Mr. Layard to Señor Collantes.

M. le Ministre, *Madrid, March* 18, 1876.

I MUCH regret to have to call your Excellency's attention to what I fear may lead to a very serious miscarriage of justice in the case of the trial of Juan Fernandez for the murder of James Frederick Robert, a British subject, which on several occasions I have brought to your Excellency's notice. The Huelva Tribunal passed a sentence on 26th ultimo, acquitting Juan Fernandez of the charge against him. Ten days were allowed to the widow to appeal against the sentence to the Supreme Court at Seville. But it would appear, from the official information which I have received, that, on account of irregularities committed by the Judge of the Huelva Tribunal, this right of appeal was seriously obstructed and all but defeated. The sentence was not made known to the British Vice-Consul until three days after it had been passed. When, two days later still, the notice of appeal on the widow's behalf was given, the Judge declined to admit it on the plea that he had already forwarded all the papers in the case to the Audiencia at Seville. Upon the Judge being then threatened with a protest against his refusal to admit the appeal being recorded in the usual notarial form, he agreed to forward the appeal himself to Seville. But before all the necessary arrangements could be made to prosecute it, the ten days had almost elapsed. A note of the above-mentioned irregular proceedings of the Huelva Judge has now been recorded in the proceedings of the Audiencia at Seville.

I earnestly hope that your Excellency will think fit to send such peremptory instructions to the authorities at Seville, as will secure a fair trial in this case; otherwise, I much fear that the ends of justice will be defeated.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 107.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Dyett.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1876.

WITH reference to your letter of 23rd instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you that Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid and Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz are doing all they can to obtain justice in the matter of the murder of Mr. Robert.

It is true that the man accused of having committed the murder has been acquitted by the Court at Seville, but Her Majesty's Consul at Cadiz has taken the necessary steps to appeal against the acquittal, and Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid has urged upon the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the strongest manner possible, the necessity of taking steps to prevent the success of the efforts which it appears are being made by the friends of the accused to screen him from justice.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 108.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 4, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of the 18th ultimo, upon the subject of the Robert murder, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the steps which you have taken, as reported therein, with the object of obtaining the punishment of the murderer.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

Correspondence respecting the Murder of Mr. Robert, at San Juan del Puerto, in Spain.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. 1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

ADDITIONAL CONVENTION

BETWEEN THE

GENERAL POST OFFICE

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

AND THE

GENERAL POST OFFICE

OF

SPAIN.

1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1876.

[C.—1451.] *Price* 1½*d.*

ADDITIONAL CONVENTION between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Spain.

CONVENIO ADICIONAL de Correos entre las Direcciones Generales de Correos de España y de el Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda.

THE Director General of Posts and Telegraphs of Spain on the one part, and the Special Delegate of the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, named for that purpose, on the other part;

With reference to the 22nd Article of the Postal Convention concluded between Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on the 21st May 1858, by which the Spanish Post Office and the British Post Office have power by mutual consent to modify the whole of the arrangements agreed upon in the said Convention, and to add or stipulate any measure which may extend it, to the advantage of both countries;

Seeing that Gibraltar is about to be considered as belonging to the General Postal Union, and that the conditions of the union would affect prejudicially the special relations at present existing between Spain and Gibraltar, and desiring, on the contrary, to facilitate those relations in accordance with the rights of each country, have determined to exercise the before-named power, and have agreed upon the following Articles:

EL Director general de Correos y Telégrafos de España, por una parte: y

El Delegado especial del Director general de Correos del Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda nombrado al efecto, por otra parte:

Visto el artículo 22 del Convenio de Correos celebrado entre España y el Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda el 21 de Mayo de 1858, por el cual se autoriza á las Direcciones generales de Correos española é inglesa para modificar, de comun acuerdo, todos los puntos estipulados en dicho Convenio, y añadir ó estipular cualquiera medida que lo amplifique en beneficio de los dos países: Considerando que, acordada la entrada de la plaza de Gibraltar en la Union general de Correos, resultarian por el Convenio de la Union perjudicadas las relaciones especiales hoy existentes entre España y Gibraltar; y deseando, por el contrario, facilitarlas, armonizando con esa facilidad los derechos de cada país, han determinado hacer uso de la expresada autorizacion, y convenido al efecto en los artículos siguientes:

ARTICLE 1.

There shall be a periodical and regular exchange between Spain and Gibraltar of—

1. Ordinary letters;
2. Registered letters and other registered articles;
3. Post cards;
4. Newspapers, books, periodicals, and printed papers;
5. Patterns of merchandise;
6. Commercial and legal documents, and proofs of printing with manuscript corrections.

ARTÍCULO PRIMERO.

Entre España y la plaza de Gibraltar habrá un cambio periódico y regular de

1. Cartas ordinarias;
2. Cartas y otros objetos certificados;
3. Tarjetas postales;
4. Libros, periódicos, gacetas y toda clase de impresos;
5. Muestras del comercio;
6. Papeles de comercio ó de negocios, pruebas de imprenta con correcciones manuscritas, y manuscritos.

ARTICLE 2.

The exchange of correspondence mentioned in the preceding Article shall take place daily, and shall be made between the Post Offices of Algeciras and Gibraltar.

ARTÍCULO 2.°

El cambio de correspondencia de que trata el artículo anterior será diario, verificándose en pliegos cerrados y por conducto de las oficinas de Correos de Algeciras y de Gibraltar.

ARTICLE 3.

The cost of conveying the mails between Gibraltar and the Spanish office of exchange, whether at Algeciras or any other town which circumstances may hereafter make a more convenient point of exchange, shall be defrayed wholly by the British Post Office.

ARTÍCULO 3.°

Los gastos que ocasione la conduccion de correspondencia entre Gibraltar y la Administracion española de cambio, ya sea ésta Algeciras ú otra, si circunstancias posteriores hicieran necesario establecer aquél en otra ú otras poblaciones españolas, serán siempre y por completo sufragados por la Administracion de Correos británica.

ARTICLE 4.

Prepayment of postage on every description of article exchanged between Spain and Gibraltar shall be obligatory, and effected by Spanish postage stamps on correspondence posted in Spain, and by British postage stamps on that posted in Gibraltar.

But notwithstanding the stipulation of the preceding paragraph, letters insufficiently paid shall be forwarded to destination, taxed on delivery with a postage of 25 centimos of a peseta for each single rate in Spain, and twopence half-penny in Gibraltar, the insufficient stamps counting for nothing.

ARTÍCULO 4.°

El franqueo de la correspondencia de todas clases que se cambie entre España y Gibraltar será siempre y para todos los casos obligatorio, verificándose por medio de los sellos de correos que se hallen en uso en España y en el Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda, adheridos al sobre ó faja de la respectiva correspondencia.

Sin embargo de lo dispuesto en el párrafo anterior, podrán remitirse á su destino las cartas insuficientemente franqueadas. Pero en este caso, la correspondencia de esta clase será porteada en el punto de su destino con un porte que se fija en 25 céntimos de peseta en España y en $2\frac{1}{2}$ peniques en Gibraltar, y sin que para nada se tengan en cuenta los sellos que resulten adheridos á las cartas, los cuales, por lo tanto, serán considerados sin ningun efecto ni valor.

ARTICLE 5.

The postage of ordinary letters exchanged between Spain and Gibraltar shall be as follows:

1. In Spain, for every 15 grammes or fraction of 15 grammes, 10 centimos of a peseta;
2. In Gibraltar, for every half ounce, or fraction of half an ounce, one penny.

ARTÍCULO 5.°

El porte de las cartas ordinarias que se cambien entre España y Gibraltar se fija del siguiente modo, á saber:

1°, en 10 céntimos de peseta en España por cada 15 gramos ó fraccion de 15 gramos.

2°, en un penique en Gibraltar por cada media onza ó fraccion de media onza.

ARTICLE 6.

Post cards shall be chargeable with half the rate of a single letter.

ARTÍCULO 6.°

Las tarjetas postales que se trasmitan entre España y Gibraltar se franquearán por la mitad del precio señalado para las cartas ordinarias.

ARTICLE 7.

The Spanish Post Office and the British Post Office shall have the right to fix, in Spain and Gibraltar respectively, the postage on patterns of merchandise, newspapers, stitched or bound books, pamphlets, catalogues, prospectuses, music, visiting cards, announcements and notices of various kinds, whether printed, engraved, or lithographed; as well as on maps, drawings, lithographs, photographs, commercial and legal docu-

ARTÍCULO 7.°

Las Administraciones de Correos de España y de Gibraltar quedan autorizadas para establecer dentro de su respectivo territorio el porte de las gacetas, periódicos y demas impresos; el de las muestras de comercio, el de los libros, ya sean encuadernados á la rústica ó en pasta; el de los folletos, catálogos, prospectos, papeles de música, tarjetas de visita, anuncios y avisos diversos, impresos, grabados, litografiados

ments, and proofs of printing with manuscript corrections.

The maximum weight of packets containing articles mentioned in the preceding paragraph is fixed at 250 grammes, or half a pound, for patterns of merchandise; and at 1,000 grammes, or two pounds, for all the other articles.

There is reserved to the British and Spanish Post Offices the right to refuse to convey or to deliver articles specified in the present Article, with regard to which the laws, orders, and decrees which regulate the conditions of their publication and circulation have not been observed.

Article 8.

Letters and the articles specified in Article 7 may be registered.

Registered articles shall be charged, in addition to the ordinary postage, with a fixed and uniform registration fee to be established by the British and Spanish Post Offices respectively.

This fee, as well as that for the acknowledgment of receipt of registered articles, shall not exceed those charged in the inland service of the country from which the registered articles proceed.

Article 9.

The articles specified in Article 7, in order to be entitled to the reduced rate of postage therein stipulated, must be enclosed in envelopes easily removable and admitting of an examination of their contents, and must contain no figures, marks, or writing other than the name and address of the person for whom they are intended. Patterns of merchandise, besides observing the above-named conditions, must not possess any intrinsic value, but they may contain, in addition to the name and address of the person for whom they are intended, a manufacturer's or trade mark, numbers, and prices.

The articles specified in Article 7 shall not be forwarded unless they have complied with the before-named conditions and been fully prepaid to destination.

grafiados ó autografiados, así como el de los mapas, dibujos, litografías, autografías, fotografías, papeles de comercio ó de negocios, manuscritos y pruebas de imprenta con correcciones manuscritas.

El máximum de peso de los paquetes que comprendan objetos de los mencionados en el presente artículo se fija: en 250 gramos ó media libra para las muestras del comercio, y en un kilógramo ó dos libras para todos los demas objetos.

Queda reservado á los Gobiernos de España y de la Gran Bretaña el derecho de no efectuar, dentro de su respectivo territorio, el trasporte y distribucion de los objetos designados en el presente Artículo, respecto de los cuales no se hubiere cumplido con las leyes, reglamentos y decretos que regulen las condiciones de su publicacion y de su circulacion.

Artículo 8.°

Queda convenido que entre España y Gibraltar podrán trasmitirse de una y otra parte, bajo el carácter de certificado, las cartas ordinarias y todos los demas objetos designados en el Art 7.°

Los objetos que se remitan bajo la garantía de la certificacion satisfarán, ademas del precio de franqueo que les corresponda como ordinarios, un derecho fijo é invariable que quedan autorizadas para establecer las Administraciones de Correos de España y de la Gran Bretaña. Ese derecho, así como el del aviso por el recibo de los objetos certificados, no podrá, sin embargo, exceder del que por igual concepto resulte establecido en el país de orígen.

Artículo 9.°

Para disfrutar de la rebaja de porte que les concede el precedente Art. 7°, los objetos en el mismo designados deberán ser remitidos bajo fajas ó de manera que puedan ser fácilmente reconocidos, y no contendrán cifra ni signo alguno manuscrito, como no sea el nombre de la persona á quien se dirigen, el punto de su residencia y las señas de su habitacion. En cuanto á las muestras del comercio, ademas de las condiciones ya mencionadas, no deberán tener valor alguno, permitiéndose, sin embargo, que en su direccion, ademas del nombre de la persona á quien se dirigen y punto de su residencia, se consigne una marca de fábrica ó de comercio, los números de órden y los precios.

No se dará curso á los objetos designados en el Artículo 7° de este especial convenio que no reunan las condiciones anteriormente expresadas ó que no resulten haber sido debidamente franqueados hasta el punto de su destino.

ARTICLE 10.

There shall not be admitted for exchange by post between Spain and Gibraltar any letter or other packet which may contain either gold or silver money, jewellery, or precious articles, or any other article whatever liable to Customs duties.

ARTICLE 11.

Official correspondence relative to the Postal Service is exempt from postage. With this exception no franking or reduction of postage is allowed.

ARTICLE 12.

Each office shall keep the whole of the sums it collects by virtue of the foregoing Articles, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Consequently, on this head there will be no necessity for any accounts between Spain and Gibraltar.

Neither the senders nor the addressees of letters and other postal packets shall be called upon to pay any tax or duty other than those prescribed by the before-mentioned Articles.

ARTICLE 13.

The Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands, the Spanish Possessions on the Northern Coast of Africa, and the Postal Establishments of Spain upon the Western Coast of Morocco shall be considered, for the purposes of this Convention, as forming part of Spain.

ARTICLE 14.

The Post Office of Gibraltar shall deliver to and receive from the Spanish Office of Exchange, without any charge, the correspondence or closed mails conveyed to or from Gibraltar by vessels belonging to Mercantile Companies with which Spain may have made special agreements for the conveyance of correspondence to or from Transatlantic Ports.

ARTICLE 15.

Every mail exchanged between the Offices of Algeciras and Gibraltar shall be accompanied by a letter bill, in conformity with the specimen annexed to the pesent Convention.

No mention shall be made in the letter bill of ordinary correspondence, paid or unpaid, exchanged between Spain or any of the countries of the General Postal Union, sent by way of Spain and Gibraltar.

ARTÍCULO 10.

Queda formalmente convenido que entre España y Gibraltar no se admitirá la trasmision de cartas ó de otro objeto cualquiera que contenga oro ó plata acuñados, ni alhajas, efectos preciosos ó cualquier otro objeto sujeto al pago de derechos de aduanas.

ARTÍCULO 11.

La correspondencia oficial relativa al servicio de Correos queda exceptuada del pago de toda clase de portes. Salvo esta excepcion, no se admite franquicia ni reduccion alguna de porte.

ARTÍCULO 12.

Cada Administracion guardará por entero las cantidades percibidas en virtud de los Artículos 4°, 5°, 6°, 7°, y 8° precedentes. En su consecuencia, por esta causa no habrá lugar á cuenta entre España y la Gran Bretaña.

Las cartas y demas envíos postales no podrán, ni en el país de orígen ni en el de destino, ser gravadas á cargo de los remitentes ó de los destinatarios con porte ni derecho postal alguno, como no sean los previstos por los artículos ántes mencionados.

ARTÍCULO 13.

Bajo la denominacion de España se entenderán comprendidas las islas Baleares y Canarias, las posesiones españolas del norte de África y las poblaciones de la costa occidental de Marruecos, servidas por el Correo español.

ARTÍCULO 14.

La Administracion británica de Gibraltar entregará ó recibirá de la Administracion española, sin que dé lugar á cuenta, la correspondencia ó pliegos cerrados que en Gibraltar tomen ó depositen buques extranjeros pertenecientes á compañías con las cuales España tenga celebrados contratos especiales para el trasporte de correspondencia de ó para puertos trasatlánticos.

ARTÍCULO 15.

A cada una de las expediciones que se verifiquen entre las Administraciones de Algeciras ó Gibraltar acompañará una hoja de aviso conforme al modelo que se acompaña al presente convenio. No se hará mencion en la hoja de aviso de la correspondencia ordinaria franqueada, no franca ó insuficientemente franqueada que se cambie entre España y Gibraltar, ó entre los

As regards other correspondence there shall be entered:

1. Under Table I., the total amount of the foreign postage due on the unpaid correspondence and the amount of the claim on the correspondence retransmitted, for which credit will have to be given to the dispatching office.

2. Under Table II., the total amount of postage to be credited to the British Office for correspondence sent *à découvert* by British mail packets between Spain and the ports of British India, China, Japan, or Australia.

The postage or claim to be entered in Table I. shall be indicated upon each article in *blue* ink or pencil, at the lower left-hand corner of the address.

The postage to be brought to account in Table II. shall be entered on each article in *red* ink or pencil, on the lower left-hand corner of the address.

In Table III. shall be entered, with such details as the Table requires, the closed mails in transit between Spain and the Philippines.

The registered correspondence shall be entered in Table No. IV. of the letter bill, with the following details:—The name of the office of origin; the name of the addressee, and the place of destination; the amount of the foreign registration fees to be credited to the office of destination.

los países de la union general de Correos, por conducto de España.

En cuanto á las demas clases de correspondencia que puedan ser objeto de cambio entre España y Gibraltar, se hará mencion:

1°, en el cuadro N° 1, del importe total de portes extranjeros por la correspondencia no franqueada y del importe de los descuentos por la correspondencia reexpedida, que debe ser de abono á la Administracion remitente.

2°, en el cuadro N°. 2, del importe total de los derechos que correspondan á la Administracion británica por la trasmision de correspondencia al descubierto entre España y los puertos de la India inglesa, China y el Japon, servidos por los vapores correos ingleses.

Los portes ó derechos de que deba llevarse cuenta en el cuadro N°. 1 se anotarán con tinta ó lápiz azul en el ángulo izquierdo inferior de cada objeto.

Los portes ó derechos que deban dar lugar á cuenta en el cuadro N° 2, se anotarán con tinta ó lápiz rojo en el ángulo izquierdo inferior de cada objeto.

Los pliegos cerrados que por la vía de Gibraltar se trasmitan entre España y las Islas Filipinas, se anotarán en el cuadro N°. 3 de la hoja de aviso, con todos los detalles que ese cuadro establece.

En el cuadro N°. 4 de la hoja de aviso se anotarán los objetos certificados, con los siguientes detalles:

Nombre de la oficina de orígen;

Nombre de la persona á quien se dirigen;

Punto de destino;

Importe de los derechos de certificacion extranjera que puedan ser abonables á la oficina de destino.

Article 16.

The Spanish Post Office shall pay to the British Post Office for the sea conveyance by British mail packets between Gibraltar and Singapore of closed mails between Spain and the Philippines, the following sums:

One franc 26 centimes per 30 grammes for letters.

One franc per kilogramme for printed papers.

Artículo 16.

La Administracion española satisfará á la Administracion británica, por la conduccion marítima de la correspondencia que en pliegos cerrados y por la vía de Gibraltar se cambie entre España y las Islas Filipinas, las cantidades siguientes:

Un franco 26 céntimos por 30 gramos, peso neto, de cartas.

Un franco por kilógramo, peso neto, de periódicos impresos y otros objetos.

Article 17.

The transit rates to which Spain is entitled for the correspondence exchanged by way of Spain between Gibraltar and other countries, whether in closed mails or *à découvert*, shall be those stipulated in the General Postal Union Treaty of Berne of the 9th October 1874.

Artículo 17.

Los derechos que á la Administracion española correspondan por la correspondencia que al descubierto ó en pliegos cerrados cambie Gibraltar con otros países por la vía de España, se regularán por las estipulaciones del Tratado de la union general de Correos de 9 de Octubre de 1874.

ARTICLE 18.

The transmission of registered articles as well as the conditions of their admission into the Post Offices, the making up of mails and the verification of their contents, and, in short, all the details and operations relating to the exchange of mails between Spain and Gibraltar, shall be in entire conformity with the detailed regulation for the execution of the General Postal Union Treaty of Berne of 9th October 1874.

ARTÍCULO 18.

La remision de objetos certificados, así como las condiciones para su admision en las oficinas de Correos, la confeccion de paquetes y su comprobacion, y por último, todos los detalles y operaciones de servicio que se refieran al cambio de correspondencia entre España y Gibraltar, se someterán en un todo y por completo á las prescripciones del reglamento acordado para la ejecucion del Tratado de la union general de Correos de 9 de Octubre de 1874.

ARTICLE 19.

The present Convention shall be considered additional to that concluded between Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on the 21st May 1858, and shall come into full and complete operation on the 1st January 1876.

Done in duplicate and signed in Madrid on the 25th day of November 1875.

G. CRUZADA,
The Director General of Posts and Telegraphs of Spain.

EDMUND CRESWELL,
The Special Delegate of the Postmaster General of Great Britain and Ireland.

L. S.

L. S.

ARTÍCULO 19.

El presente convenio, que se considerará como adicional al celebrado entre España y el Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda el 21 de Marzo de 1858, tendrá plena y completa ejecucion desde el dia 1.º de Enero 1876.

Hecho en doble original y firmado en Madrid, el 25 de Noviembre de 1875.

G. CRUZADA,
El Director general de Correos y Telégrafos de Espana.

EDMUND CRESWELL,
El Delegado especial del Director general de Correos de la Gran Bretana.

L. S.

L. S.

ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES
d _____

A.

CORRESPONDANCE avec l'OFFICE
de GIBRALTAR.

FEUILLE D'AVIS.

(Timbre du Bureau Expéditeur.)

Dépêche du Bureau d'Échange _____ d _____
par le Bureau d'Échange _____ d _____
Départ du _____ 187 __ à __ h. __ m. du _____
Arrivé le _____ 187 __ à __ h. __ m. du _____

I. AVOIR de l'OFFICE d'ESPAGNE.	Fr.	Cs.
DÉBOURS: (Port Étranger, taxe des Correspondances réexpediées) - - - - - -		

II. AVOIR de l'OFFICE de la GRANDE BRETAGNE.	Fr.	Cs.
Art. 1.—Lettres affranchies - - -		
Bonifications (Taxes, etc.) a. Objets ordinaires -		
Bonifications (Taxes, etc.) b. Objets recommandées		
Art. 2.—Imprimés de toute nature -		

(Timbre du Bureau Expéditeur.)

(Timbre du Bureau Destinataire.)

IV. ENVOIS RECOMMANDÉS.

Nos d'Ordre. 1.	Timbre d'Origine. 2.	Noms des Destinataires et Lieu de Destination. 3	A bonifier à l'Office de la Grande Bretagne. Port Étranger. 4. Fr.	Cs.	Droit de Recommandation. 5. Fr.	Cs.	Observations. 6.
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

III. Dépêches Closes.

Bureau d'Origine. 1.	Bureau de Destination. 2.	Nombre des Dépêches Closes. 3.	Observations. 4.

Nos d'Ordre. 1.	Timbre d'Origine. 2.	Noms des Destinataires et Lieux de Destination. 3.	A bonifier à l'Office de la Grande Bretagne.				Observations. 6.
			Port Étranger. 4.		Droit de Recommandation. 5.		
			Fr.	*Cs.*	*Fr.*	*Cs.*	
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
etc.							
		Totaux - - -					
		Total Général, à reporter au Tableau N° II., lit. *b* - -					

L'Employé du Bureau d'Échange expéditeur:

L'Employé du Bureau d'Échange destinataire:

LONDON
Printed by George E. Eyre and William Spottiswoode
Printers to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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SPAIN. No. 2 (1876).

DECLARATION

BETWEEN

GREAT BRITAIN AND SPAIN

RESPECTING

TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES

BETWEEN

GIBRALTAR AND SPAIN.

Signed at Madrid, December 25, 1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

[C.—1394.] *Price* 1*d.*

Declaration between Great Britain and Spain respecting Telegraphic Messages between Gibraltar and Spain.

Signed at Madrid, December 25, 1875.

THE Government of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Government of His Majesty the King of Spain, have come to an agreement for the regulation of the exchange of telegraphic messages between Gibraltar and Spain by the line of telegraph established between Gibraltar and San Roque, and have authorized the Undersigned to make the following Declaration:—

El Gobierno de Su Magestad la Reina del Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda, y el Gobierno de Su Magestad el Rey de España, se han puesto de acuerdo para regularizar el cambio de telégramas originarios de Gibraltar y España por la linea telegráfica establecida entre Gibraltar y San Roque, y han autorizado á los Infrascritos para hacer la siguiente Declaracion:—

ARTICLE I.

There shall be a mutual exchange by telegraph of messages originating in Gibraltar on the one side, and in Spain on the other, between the British Telegraph Office at Gibraltar and the Spanish Telegraph Offices which may be designated by the Spanish Administration.

ARTICULO I.

Habrá un cambio mútuo de telégramas procedentes de Gibraltar por una parte y de España por la otra, entre la Estacion Telegráfica Británica de Gibraltar y las Españolas que se designen por la Administracion de España.

ARTICLE II.

The charge to be levied, whether upon messages originating in Gibraltar addressed to Spain, or upon messages originating in Spain and addressed to Gibraltar, shall be for a single message not exceeding ten words, one peseta and fifty céntimos of a peseta, and an additional fifteen céntimos of a peseta shall be paid for every word above ten, no words being allowed free for address and signature. Of this sum two-thirds shall belong to Spain, and the other third to Gibraltar.

ARTICULO II.

La tasa que se exija ya sea por los telégramas procedentes de Gibraltar y dirigidos á España, ó por los telégramas procedentes de España y dirigidos á Gibraltar, será por cada telégrama sencillo, que no exceda de diez palabras, de una peseta y cincuenta céntimos de peseta, y se abonará un recargo de quince céntimos de peseta por cada palabra que pase de las diez, no concediendose palabra alguna gratuita para direccion ni firma. De esta suma dos terceras partes pertenecerán á España, y la otra tercera parte á Gibraltar.

ARTICLE III.

The accounts to which this telegraphic correspondence will give rise shall be made out in accordance with the provisions of Article XVII of the International Telegraphic Convention of St. Petersburgh of 22nd July, 1875, and of Articles 75 and 76 of the detailed Regulations attached to that Convention, and with the modifica-

ARTICULO III.

Las cuentas á que dé lugar esta correspondencia telegráfica se rendirán en conformidad con las disposiciones del Articulo XVII del Convenio Telegráfico Internacional de San Petersburgo de 22 de Julio de 1875, y de los Articulos 75 y 76 del Reglamento de servicio adjunto á dicho Convenio, y modificaciones que en los referidos

tions which may be introduced into the said Articles by the periodical revisions which successive Conferences may make of the said Regulations.

ARTICLE IV.

This Agreement shall take effect on the 1st January, 1876, and its provisions come into operation on that date.

Done in duplicate in Madrid, the 25th December, 1875.

Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary,
(L.S.) A. H. LAYARD.

Artículos introduzcan las revisiones periodicas de dicho Reglamento verificadas por las sucesivas Conferencias.

ARTICULO IV.

Este acuerdo se pondrá en vigor el 1° de Enero de 1876, y sus disposiciones empezarán á regir en la misma fecha.

Fecho por duplicado en Madrid á 25 de Diciembre de 1875.

El Ministro de Estado de Su Magestad el Rey de España,
FERN^DO. CALDERON Y COLLANTES.
(L.S.)

SPAIN. No. 2 (1876).

DECLARATION between Great Britain and Spain respecting Telegraphic Messages between Gibraltar and Spain.

Signed at Madrid, December 25, 1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. 1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

SPAIN. No. 1 (1876).

DECLARATION

BETWEEN

GREAT BRITAIN AND SPAIN

FOR THE

PROTECTION OF TRADE MARKS.

Signed at London, December 14, 1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

[C.—1389. *Price* 1*d.*

Declaration between Great Britain and Spain for the Protection of Trade Marks.

Signed at London, December 14, 1875.

THE Government of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Government of His Majesty the King of Spain, with a view to the reciprocal protection of the marks of manufacture and trade in the two countries, have agreed as follows:—

The subjects of each of the Contracting Parties shall have in the dominions and possessions of the other, the same rights as belong to native subjects in everything relating to property in manufacturing or trade marks, industrial designs or patterns, or manufactures of any kind.

It is understood that any person who desires to obtain the aforesaid protection must fulfil the formalities required by the laws of the respective countries.

In witness whereof the Undersigned have signed the present Declaration, and have affixed thereto the seal of their arms.

Done at London, the fourteenth day of December, 1875.

(L.S.) DERBY.
(L.S.) MARQUES DE CASA LAIGLESIA.

EL Gobierno de Su Majestad la Reina del Reino Unido de la Gran Bretaña é Irlanda, y el Gobierno de Su Majestad el Rey de España, deseando asegurar recíprocamente la proteccion de las marcas de comercio y de materias manufacturadas en ambos paises, han convenido lo siguiente:—

Los súbditos de cada una de las Partes Contratantes disfrutarán en los dominios y posesiones de la otra de los mismos derechos que los súbditos naturales del pais en todo lo concerniente á la propiedad de marcas de fábrica ó de comercio, de dibujos ó modelos industriales, ó de manufacturas de cualquiera clase.

Queda entendido que las personas que deseen obtener la proteccion expresada deberán someterse á las formalidades requeridas por las leyes de los respectivos paises.

En fé de lo cual los Infrascritos han firmado la presente Declaracion, poniendo en ella el sello de sus armas.

Fecho en Londres, á catorce de Diciembre de 1875.

(L.S.) DERBY.
(L.S.) MARQUES DE CASA LAIGLESIA.

SPAIN. No. 1 (1876).

DECLARATION between Great Britain and Spain for the Protection of Trade Marks.

Signed at London, December 14, 1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. 1876.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

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MISCELLANEOUS. No. 2 (1876)

ACCESSION

OF

GREAT BRITAIN

TO THE

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPHIC CONVENTION,

SIGNED AT ST. PETERSBURGH, JULY $\frac{10}{22}$, 1875.

Signed at St. Petersburgh, $\frac{\text{December 26, 1875}}{\text{January 7, 1876}}$, *and Acceptance thereof signed at St. Petersburgh,* $\frac{\text{December 26, 1875}}{\text{January 7, 1876}}$.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

[C.—1418.] *Price 2d.*

Accession of Great Britain to the International Telegraphic Convention, signed at St. Petersburgh, July $\frac{10}{22}$, 1875.

Signed at St. Petersburgh $\frac{\text{December 26, 1875}}{\text{January 7, 1876}}$, *and Acceptance thereof signed at St. Petersburgh* $\frac{\text{December 26, 1875}}{\text{January 7, 1876}}$.

Déclaration.

LE Soussigné, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, déclare que Sa Majesté Britannique, après avoir eu communication de la Convention Télégraphique Internationale, conclue à St. Pétersbourg le $\frac{10}{22}$ Juillet, 1875, usant du droit réservé par l'Article XVIII de cette Convention aux Etats non-signataires, accède, pour le Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, ainsi que pour ses Colonies de Gibraltar et des Indes, à la dite Convention Télégraphique Internationale, laquelle est censée insérée mot à mot dans la présente Déclaration, et s'engage formellement envers Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, et les autres Hautes Parties Contractantes, à concourir de son côté à l'exécution des stipulations contenues dans la dite Convention Télégraphique.

En foi de quoi, le Soussigné, dûment autorisé, a signé la présente Déclaration d'Accession, et y a apposé le sceau de ses armes.

Fait à St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{\text{26 Décembre, 1875.}}{\text{7 Janvier, 1876.}}$

(Signé) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

La Convention Internationale Télégraphique. Conclue à St. Pétersbourg, 1875.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche, Roi de Bohème, &c., &c., Roi Apostolique de Hongrie, Sa Majesté le Roi des Belges, Sa Majesté le Roi de Danemark, Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne, Son Excellence M. le Président de la République Française, Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes, Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie, Sa Majesté le Roi des Pays-Bas, Sa Majesté le Shah de Perse, Sa Majesté le Roi de Portugal et des Algarves, Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, Sa Majesté le Roi de Suède et de Norvége, Son Excellence M. le Président de la Confédération Suisse et Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Ottomans, animés du désir de garantir et de faciliter le service de la Télégraphie Internationale ont résolu, conformément à l'Article LVI de la Convention Télégraphique Internationale signée à Paris le $\frac{5}{17}$ Mai, 1865, d'introduire dans cette Convention les modifications et améliorations suggérées par l'expérience.

A cet effet ils ont nommé pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir :

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne, M. le Prince Henri VII Reuss, son Lieutenant-Général et Général Aide-de-Camp, son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche, Roi de Bohème, &c., &c., Roi Apostolique de Hongrie, M. le Baron Ferdinand de Langenau, son Conseiller Intime, son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté le Roi des Belges, M. le Comte Errembault de Dudzeele, son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté le Roi de Danemark, M. Emile de Vind, son Chambellan et son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne, M. Manuel de Acuna et de Witte, Marquis de Bedmar, Grand d'Espagne, son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Son Excellence M. le Président de la République Française, M. le Général Le Flô, Ambassadeur de France près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté le Roi des Hellènes, M. Marcoran, son Chargé d'Affaires à Saint Pétersbourg ;

Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie, M. le Comte Raphaël Barbolani, son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté le Roi des Pays-Bas, M. Frédéric van der Hoeven, son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté le Shah de Perse, Mirza Abdulrahim Khan Saedul Mulk, son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté le Roi de Portugal et des Algarves, M. le Vicomte Frédéric Stuart de Figanière e Morao, Gentilhomme de Sa Maison et son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, M. le Baron Alexandre Jomini, son Conseiller Privé Actuel, dirigeant le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères ;

Sa Majesté le Roi de Suède et de Norvége, M. Georges Due, son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Son Excellence M. le Président de la Confédération Suisse, M. le Colonel Fédéral Bernard Hammer, Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de la Confédération Suisse près Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Allemagne ;

Sa Majesté l'Empereur des Ottomans, Kiamil Pasha, son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies ;

Lesquels, après s'être communiqué leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des Articles suivants :—

ARTICLE I.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes reconnaissent à toutes personnes le droit de correspondre au moyen des télégraphes internationaux.

ARTICLE II.

Elles s'engagent à prendre toutes les dispositions nécessaires pour assurer le secret des correspondances et leur bonne expédition.

ARTICLE III.

Toutefois, elles déclarent n'accepter, à raison du service de la télégraphie internationale, aucune responsabilité.

ARTICLE IV.

Chaque Gouvernement s'engage à affecter au service télégraphique international des fils spéciaux, en nombre suffisant pour assurer une rapide transmission des télégrammes.

Ces fils seront établis et desservis dans les meilleurs conditions que la pratique du service aura fait connaître.

ARTICLE V.

Les télégrammes sont classés en trois catégories :—

1°. Télégrammes d'Etat : ceux qui émanent du Chef de l'Etat, des Ministres, des Commandants en chef de forces de terre et de mer, et des Agents Diplomatiques ou Consulaires des Gouvernements Contractants, ainsi que les réponses à ces même télégrammes.

2°. Télégrammes de service : ceux qui émanent des Administrations Télégraphiques des Etats Contractants et qui sont relatifs, soit au service de la télégraphie internationale, soit à des objets d'intérêt public déterminés de concert par les dites Administrations.

3°. Télégrammes privés.

Dans la transmission, les télégrammes d'Etat jouissent de la priorité sur les autres télégrammes.

ARTICLE VI.

Les télégrammes d'Etat et de service peuvent être émis en langage secret, dans toutes les relations.

Les télégrammes privés peuvent être échangés en langage secret entre deux Etats qui admettent ce mode de correspondance.

Les Etats qui n'admettent pas les télégrammes privés en langage secret, au départ et à l'arrivée, doivent les laisser circuler en transit, sauf le cas de suspension défini à l'Article VIII.

ARTICLE VII.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes se réservent la faculté d'arrêter la transmission de tout télégramme privé qui paraîtrait dangereux pour la sécurité de l'Etat, ou qui serait contraire aux lois du pays, à l'ordre public ou aux bonnes mœurs.

ARTICLE VIII.

Chaque Gouvernement se réserve aussi la faculté de suspendre le service de la télégraphie internationale pour un temps indéterminé, s'il le juge nécessaire, soit d'une manière générale, soit seulement sur certaines lignes et pour certaines natures de correspondances, à charge par lui d'en aviser immédiatement chacun des autres Gouvernements Contractants.

ARTICLE IX.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent à faire jouir tout expéditeur des différentes combinaisons arrêtées de concert par les Administrations Télégraphiques des Etats Contractants, en vue de donner plus de garanties et de facilités à la transmission et à la remise des correspondances.

Elles s'engagent également à le mettre à même de profiter des dispositions prises et notifiées par l'un quelconque des autres Etats, pour l'emploi de moyens spéciaux de transmission ou de remise.

ARTICLE X.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes déclarent adopter, pour la formation des tarifs internationaux, les bases ci-après :

La taxe applicable à toutes les correspondances échangées, par la même voie entre les bureaux de deux quelconques des Etats Contractants sera uniforme. Un même Etat pourra toutefois, en Europe, être subdivisé, pour l'application de la taxe uniforme, en deux grandes divisions territoriales au plus.

Le taux de la taxe est établi d'Etat à Etat, de concert entre les Gouvernements extrêmes et les Gouvernements intermédiaires.

Les taxes des tarifs applicables aux correspondances échangées entre les Etats Contractants pourront, à toute époque, être modifiées d'un commun accord.

Le franc est l'unité monétaire qui sert à la composition des tarifs internationaux.

ARTICLE XI.

Les télégrammes relatifs au service des télégraphes internationaux des Etats Contractants sont transmis en franchise sur tout le réseau des dits Etats.

ARTICLE XII.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes se doivent réciproquement compte des taxes perçues par chacune d'elles.

ARTICLE XIII.

Les dispositions de la présente Convention sont complétées par un règlement, dont les prescriptions peuvent être, à toute époque, modifiées d'un commun accord par les Administrations des Etats Contractants.

ARTICLE XIV.

Un organe central placé sous la haute autorité de l'Administration supérieure de l'un des Gouvernements Contractants désigné, à cet effet, par le règlement, est chargé de réunir, de co-ordonner et de publier les renseignements de toute nature relatifs à la télégraphie internationale, d'instruire les demandes de modification aux tarifs et au règlements de service, de faire promulguer les changements adoptés et, en général, de procéder à toutes les études et d'exécuter tous les travaux dont il serait saisi dans l'intérêt de la télégraphie internationale.

Les frais auxquels donne lieu cette institution sont supportés par toutes les Administrations des Etats Contractants.

ARTICLE XV.

Le tarif et le règlement prévus par les Articles X et XIII sont annexés à la présente Convention. Ils ont la même valeur et entrent en vigueur en même temps qu'elle.

Ils seront soumis à des révisions où tous les Etats qui y ont pris part pourront se faire représenter.

A cet effet, des Conférences Administratives auront lieu périodiquement, chaque Conférence fixant elle-même le lieu et l'époque de la réunion suivante.

ARTICLE XVI.

Ces Conférences sont composées des délégués représentant les Administrations des Etats Contractants.

Dans les délibérations, chaque Administration a droit à une voix, sous réserve, s'il s'agit d'Administrations différentes d'un même Gouvernement, que la demande en ait été faite par voie diplomatique au Gouvernement du pays où doit se réunir la Conférence, avant la date fixée pour son ouverture, et que chacune d'entre elles ait une représentation spéciale et distincte.

Les révisions résultant des délibérations des Conférences ne sont exécutoires qu'après avoir reçu l'approbation de tous les Gouvernements des Etats Contractants.

ARTICLE XVII.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes se réservent respectivement le droit de prendre séparément, entre elles, des arrangements particuliers de toute nature sur les points du service qui n'intéressent pas la généralité des Etats.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Les Etats qui n'ont point pris part à la présente Convention seront admis à y adhérer sur leur demande.

Cette adhésion sera notifiée par la voie diplomatique à celui des Etats Contractants, au sein duquel la dernière Conférence aura été tenue, et, par cet Etat à tous les autres.

Elle emportera, de plein droit, accession à toutes les clauses et admission à tous les avantages stipulés par la présente Convention.

ARTICLE XIX.

Les relations télégraphiques avec des Etats non-adhérents, ou avec les exploitations privées, sont réglées dans l'intérêt général du développement progressif des communications, par le règlement prévu à l'Article XIII de la présente Convention.

ARTICLE XX.

La présente Convention sera mise à exécution à partir du 1er Janvier, 1876, nouveau style, et demeurera en vigueur pendant un temps indéterminé et jusqu'à l'expiration d'une année à partir du jour où la dénonciation en sera faite.

La dénonciation ne produit son effet qu'à l'égard de l'Etat qui l'a faite. Pour les autres Parties Contractantes, la Convention reste en vigueur.

ARTICLE XXI.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée et les ratifications en seront échangées à St. Pétersbourg dans le plus bref délai possible.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs l'ont signée et y ont apposé le cachet de leurs armes.

Fait à St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{10}{22}$ Juillet, 1875.

(L.S.)	BARON JOMINI.
(L.S.)	PRINCE REUSS.
(L.S.)	LANGENAU.
(L.S.)	ERREMBAULT DE DUDZEELE.
(L.S.)	E. DE VIND.
(L.S.)	LE MARQUIS DE BEDMAR.
(L.S.)	GÉNÉRAL LE-FLÔ.
(L.S.)	SPYRIDION MARCORAN.
(L.S.)	BARBOLANI.
(L.S.)	F. P. VAN DER HOEVEN.
(L.S.)	ABDULRAHIM.
(L.S.)	FIGANIÈRE.
(L.S.)	DUE.
(L.S.)	HAMMER.
(L.S.)	KIAMIL.

Déclaration.

Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande ayant accédé à la Convention Télégraphique Internationale conclue à St. Pétersbourg le $\frac{10}{22}$ Juillet, 1875, par la Déclaration d'Accession, dont la teneur suit :—

"Le Soussigné, Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté la Reine du Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande près Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies, déclare que Sa Majesté Britannique, après avoir eu communication de la Convention Télégraphique Internationale conclue à St. Pétersbourg le $\frac{10}{22}$ Juillet, 1875, usant du droit réservé par l'Article XVIII de cette Convention aux Etats non-signataires, accède, pour le Royaume Uni de la Grande Bretagne et d'Irlande, ainsi que pour ses Colonies de Gibraltar et des Indes, à la dite Convention Télégraphique Internationale, laquelle est censée insérée mot à mot dans la présente Déclaration, et s'engage formellement, envers Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Toutes les Russies et les Hautes Parties Contractantes, à concourir de son côté à l'exécution des stipulations contenues dans la dite Convention Télégraphique.

"En foi de quoi le Soussigné, dûment autorisé, a signé la présente Déclaration d'Accession et y a apposé le sceau de ses armes.

"Fait à St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{\text{26 Décembre, 1875.}}{\text{7 Janvier, 1876.}}$

(Signé) "AUGUSTUS LOFTUS."

Le Chancelier de l'Empire de Russie, dûment autorisé, déclare que le Gouvernement Impérial accepte formellement la dite accession, tant en son nom qu'au nom des autres Hautes Puissances Contractantes, et s'engage à exécuter envers Sa Majesté Britannique toutes les stipulations contenues dans la dite Convention.

En foi de quoi le Soussigné a signé la présente Déclaration et l'a revêtu du cachet de ses armes.

Fait à St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{\text{26 Décembre, 1875.}}{\text{7 Janvier, 1876.}}$

(Signé) GORTCHACOW.

(Translations.)

Declaration.

THE Undersigned, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, declares that Her Britannic Majesty, having had the International Telegraphic Convention, concluded at St. Petersburgh on the $\frac{10\text{th}}{22\text{nd}}$ of July, 1875, laid before her, and availing herself of the right reserved by Article XVIII of that Convention to States not parties to the original Convention, accedes, on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as on behalf of Her Colony of Gibraltar and of India, to the said International Telegraphic Convention, which is to be considered as inserted word for word in the present Declaration, and formally engages, as far as regards His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias and the other High Contracting Parties, to co-operate on her part in the execution of the stipulations contained in the said Telegraphic Convention.

In witness whereof the Undersigned, duly authorized, has signed the present Declaration of Accession, and has affixed thereto the seal of his arms.

Done at St. Petersburgh, $\frac{\text{December 26, 1875.}}{\text{January 7, 1876.}}$

(L.S.) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

The International Telegraphic Convention. Concluded at St. Petersburgh, 1875.

His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., &c., Apostolic King of Hungary, His Majesty the King of the Belgians, His Majesty the King of Denmark, His Majesty the King of Spain, His Excellency the President of the French Republic, His Majesty the King of the Hellenes, His Majesty the King of Italy, His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, His Majesty the Shah of Persia, His Majesty the King of Portugal and the Algarves, His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway, His Excellency the President of the Swiss Confederation, and His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, animated with the desire to guarantee and to facilitate the International Telegraph service, have resolved, in conformity with the LVIth Article of the International Telegraphic Convention, signed at Paris the $\frac{5}{17}$th May, 1865, to introduceinto this Convention the modifications and improvements suggested by experience. For that purpose they have named as their Plénipotentiaries, that is to say :—

His Majesty the Emperor of Germany, Prince Henry VII of Reuss, His Lieutenant-General and General Aide-de-Camp, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, King of Bohemia, &c., &c., Apostolic King of Hungary, Baron Ferdinand de Langenau, His Privy Councillor, His Ambassador Extraordinary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Majesty the King of the Belgians, Count Errembault de Dudzeele, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Majesty the King of Denmark, M. Emile de Vind, His Chamberlain and His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Majesty the King of Spain, M. Manuel de Acuna and de Witte, Marquis de Bedmar, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Excellency the President of the French Republic, General Le-Flô, Ambassador of France to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Majesty the King of the Hellenes, M. Marcoran, His Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh;

His Majesty the King of Italy, Count Raphaël Barbolani, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Majesty the King of the Netherlands, M. Frederic van der Hoeven, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Majesty the Shah of Persia, Mirza Abdulrahim Khan Saedul Mulk, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Majesty the King of Portugal and of the Algarves, Viscount Frederic Stuart de Figanière e Morao, gentleman of His household and His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, Baron Alexandre Jomini, His Actual Privy Councillor directing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

His Majesty the King of Sweden and Norway, M. Georges Due, His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

His Excellency the President of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Colonel Bernard Hammer, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Swiss Confederation to His Majesty the Emperor of Germany;

His Majesty the Emperor of the Ottomans, Kiamil Pasha, His Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias;

Who, after having communicated to each other their full Powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The High Contracting Parties recognise the right of all persons to correspond by means of the international telegraphs.

ARTICLE II.

They undertake to adopt all necessary measures to insure the secrecy of messages, and their prompt despatch.

ARTICLE III.

They, however, announce that they accept no responsibility on account of the service of the international telegraphs.

ARTICLE IV.

Each Government undertakes to devote to the international telegraph service, special wires, in sufficient number to insure a rapid transmission of telegrams.

These wires shall be established and worked in the best manner that experience in the service has made known.

ARTICLE V.

Telegrams are classed in three categories:—

1st. Government telegrams: those which emanate from the Chief of the State, Ministers, Commanders-in-Chief of land or sea forces, and Diplomatic or Consular Agents of the Contracting Governments; also the replies to such telegrams.

2nd. Service telegrams: those which emanate from the Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting States, and which relate either to the service of the international telegraphs, or to objects of public interest agreed upon between the said Administrations.

3rd. Private telegrams.

In transmission, Government telegrams take precedence of other telegrams.

ARTICLE VI.

Government and service telegrams may be forwarded on all occasions in secret language.

Private telegrams in secret language may be exchanged between two States which admit that mode of correspondence.

States which do not admit private telegrams in secret language to emanate from, or terminate, at their offices, will allow them to pass in transit, unless the service be suspended, as defined in Article VIII.

ARTICLE VII.

The High Contracting Parties reserve to themselves the power to stop the transmission of any private telegram which may appear dangerous to the security of the State, or which may be contrary to the laws of the country, to public order, or decency.

ARTICLE VIII.

Each Government also reserves to itself the power to interrupt the system of the nternational telegraphs for an indefinite period, if it judges it necessary, either generally, or only upon certain lines and for certain kinds of messages, upon condition that it immediately advises each of the other contracting Governments.

ARTICLE IX.

The High Contracting Parties engage to enable every sender to profit by the different arrangements agreed upon between the Telegraph Administrations of the Contracting States, for the purpose of giving additional guarantees and facilities for the transmission and delivery of messages.

They also undertake to enable him to profit by the arrangements made and notified by any one of the other States, for the employment of special means of transmission or delivery.

ARTICLE X.

The High Contracting Parties announce their adoption of the following bases for the formation of international tariffs:

The charge for all messages exchanged by the same route between the offices of any two of the Contracting States, shall be uniform. In applying this principle, however, a State may be subdivided in Europe into two large territorial divisions; but not more.

The rate of charge is laid down from State to State, under agreement between the terminal Governments, and the intermediate Governments.

The charges composing the tariffs applicable to the messages exchanged between the Contracting States may at any time be modified by a common agreement.

The franc is the monetary unit employed in the composition of international tariffs.

ARTICLE XI.

Telegrams relating to the international telegraph service of the Contracting States are transmitted free over all the lines of the said States.

ARTICLE XII.

The High Contracting Parties reciprocally owe each other account of the charges which they respectively collect.

ARTICLE XIII.

The stipulations of the present Convention are completed by a series of service regulations, the provisions of which may be at any time modified by common accord by the Administrations of the Contracting States.

ARTICLE XIV.

A central office, placed under the superior authority of the chief Administration of one of the Contracting Governments designated for that purpose in the service regulations, is appointed to collect, arrange, and publish information of all kinds relating to international telegraphy, to circulate requests for modifications of tariffs and service regulations, to give notice of the changes adopted, and generally to study all subjects and execute all work entrusted to it in the interest of international telegraphy.

The expenses incidental to the working of this office are supported by all the Administrations of the Contracting States.

ARTICLE XV.

The tariffs and service regulations provided for by Articles X and XIII are annexed to the present Convention. They possess the same value, and come into operation at the same time as the Convention.

They will be subjected to revisions, at which all the States which have taken part in them will have the right to be represented.

With this object, Administrative Conferences will take place periodically; each Conference fixing the time and place of the next meeting.

ARTICLE XVI.

These Conferences shall be composed of delegates representing the Administrations of the Contracting States.

In the deliberations each Administration has a right to one vote, provided always that when there shall be different Administrations of the same Government, a request to this effect shall have been made through the diplomatic channel to the Government of the country in which the Conference is to take place before the date fixed for its opening, and also that each of the different Administrations has a special and distinct Representative.

The revisions resulting from the deliberations of the Conferences can only come into operation after they have been approved by all the Governments of the Contracting States.

ARTICLE XVII.

The High Contracting Parties reserve to themselves respectively the right to make separately, among themselves, particular arrangements of every kind in matters of service which do not interest the generality of the States.

ARTICLE XVIII.

States which have not taken part in the present Convention will be admitted to adhere to it on their request.

This adhesion will be notified through the diplomatic channel to the Contracting State in which the last Conference was held, and by that State to all the others.

It will convey, with full right, accession to all the clauses and admission to all the advantages stipulated by the present Convention.

ARTICLE XIX.

Telegraphic relations with non-adhering States or private companies, are regulated in the general interest of the progressive development of communication by the service regulations provided for by Article XIII of the present Convention.

ARTICLE XX.

The present Convention will be put into execution from 1st January, 1876, new style, and will remain in force for an indefinite period, or until the lapse of one year from the date of its renunciation.

A renunciation made by any State only affects that State. The Convention remains in force for the other Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE XXI.

The present Convention will be ratified and the ratifications exchanged at St. Petersburgh with as little delay as possible.

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed it and thereto set the seals of their arms.

Done at St. Petersburgh.

(L.S.)	BARON JOMINI.
(L.S.)	PRINCE REUSS.
(L.S.)	LANGENAU.
(L.S.)	ERREMBAULT DE DUDZEELE.
(L.S.)	E. DE VIND.
(L.S.)	LE MARQUIS DE BEDMAR.
(L.S.)	GÉNÉRAL LE-FLÔ.
(L.S.)	SPYRIDION MARCORAN.
(L.S.)	BARBOLANI.
(L.S.)	F. P. VAN DER HOEVEN.
(L.S.)	ABDULRAHIM.
(L.S.)	FIGANIÈRE.
(L.S.)	DUE.
(L.S.)	HAMMER.
(L.S.)	KIAMIL.

Declaration.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland having acceded to the International Telegraphic Convention concluded at St. Petersburgh on the $\frac{10\text{th}}{22\text{nd}}$ of July, 1875, by the Declaration of Accession, which is in the following terms:—

The Undersigned Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, declares that Her Britannic Majesty, having had the International Telegraphic Convention, concluded at St. Petersburgh on the $\frac{10\text{th}}{22\text{nd}}$ of July, 1875, laid before her, and availing herself of the right reserved by Article XVIII of that Convention to States not parties to the original Convention, accedes, on behalf of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as on behalf of Her Colony of Gibraltar and of India, to the said International Telegraphic Convention, which is to be considered as inserted word for word in the present Declaration, and formally engages, as far as regards His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias and the other high Contracting Parties, to co-operate on her part in the execution of the stipulations contained in the said Telegraphic Convention.

In witness whereof the Undersigned, duly authorized, has signed the present Declaration of accession, and has affixed thereto the seal of his arms.

Done at St. Petersburgh, $\frac{\text{December 26, 1875.}}{\text{January 7, 1876.}}$

(L.S.) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

The Chancellor of the Empire of Russia, duly authorized, declares that the Imperial Government formally accepts the said accession, in his own name as well as in the name of the other high Contracting Powers, and engages to carry out as far as regards Her Britannic Majesty all the stipulations contained in the said Convention.

In witness whereof the Undersigned has signed the present Declaration to which he has affixed the seal of his arms.

Done at St. Petersburgh, $\frac{\text{December 26, 1875.}}{\text{January 7, 1876.}}$

(L.S.) GORTCHACOW.

ACCESSION of Great Britain to the International Telegraphic Convention, signed at St. Petersburgh, July $\frac{10}{22}$, 1875. Signed at St. Petersburgh, $\frac{\text{December 26, 1875}}{\text{January 7, 1876}}$, and Acceptance thereof signed at St. Petersburgh $\frac{\text{December 26, 1875}}{\text{January 7, 1876}}$.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. 1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

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FOR

TUNIS. No. 1 (1876).

GENERAL CONVENTION

BETWEEN THE

GOVERNMENTS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN AND TUNIS.

Signed in the English and Arabic Languages, July 19, 1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

[C.—1388.] *Price* 2*d.*

General Convention between the Governments of Great Britain and Tunis.

Signed in the English and Arabic Languages, July 19, 1875.

THE Government of Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and His Most Serene Highness Mohammed Essaddock Bey, Lord of the Regency of Tunis, being desirous to maintain and improve the relations of friendship and commerce which have long subsisted between them and between British and Tunisian subjects, have resolved to proceed to a revision and improvement of the Treaties subsisting between the respective countries, in consequence of which the following stipulations have been entered into and concluded between His Most Serene Highness the Bey, and Richard Wood, Esquire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General, duly authorized to that effect.

ARTICLE I.

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland may appoint, besides her Political Agent, such Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents in the Regency of Tunis as she may deem necessary; and such Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents shall be at liberty to reside in any of the seaports or cities of His Highness the Bey, which they or the British Government may choose and find most convenient for the affairs and service of Her Majesty, and for the assistance of her subjects.

ARTICLE II.

Every mark of honour and respect shall at all times be paid, and every privilege and immunity allowed, to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General accredited to His Highness the Bey which is paid or allowed to the Representative of any other nation whatsoever; and respect and honour shall be shown to the British Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents, who shall reside in the Regency of Tunis. Their houses and families shall be safe and protected. No one shall interfere with them, or commit any act of oppression or disrespect towards them, either by word or deed; and if any one should do so, the Tunisian authorities shall take immediate measures for the punishment of the offender. The British Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents shall, moreover, continue to enjoy, in the most ample sense, all the privileges and immunities which are now or may be hereafter accorded to the Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents of the most favoured nation.

ARTICLE III.

The British Agent and Consul-General shall be at liberty to choose his own interpreters, brokers, guards, and servants, either from among the natives or others. His interpreters, brokers, guards, and servants shall be exempt from the conscription, and from payment of any poll-tax, forced contribution, or other similar or corresponding charge. In like manner, the Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and Consular Agents residing at the Tunisian ports, under the orders of the said Agent and Consul-General, shall be at liberty to choose, that is to say, the Consuls, each one interpreter, one broker, two guards, and three servants; the Vice-Consuls and Consular Agents, each one interpreter, one broker, and one guard, and two servants, not being in the military service, who shall likewise be exempt from the

conscription, from the payment of any poll-tax, forced contribution, or other similar or corresponding charge. No prohibition nor tax shall be put upon the provisions, furniture, or any other articles which may come to the said Agent and Consul-General, Consuls, or Vice-Consuls, for their own use and for the use of their families, upon their delivering to the Officer of the Customs a note under their hand, specifying the number of articles which they shall require to be passed on that ground, but this privilege shall only be accorded to Consular Officers who are not engaged in trade. If the service of their Sovereign should require their attendance in their own country, no impediment shall be offered to their departure, and no hindrance shall be offered either to themselves or their servants, or in regard to their property, but they shall be at liberty to go and come, respected and honoured. If they should depute another person to act for them in their absence, they shall not be prevented in any way from so doing, nor shall the deputy be prevented from acting in that capacity.

ARTICLE IV.

There shall be reciprocal freedom of commerce between the dominions of Her Majesty the Queen and the Regency of Tunis. British merchants or their agents and brokers shall be permitted to purchase at all places within the Regency, whether for the purposes of internal trade or of exportation, all articles, without any exception whatsoever, being the produce or manufacture of the said Regency; and the purchaser shall be free to remove his goods, when purchased, from one place to another, without any attempt being made on the part of the Local Governors to interfere with them.

ARTICLE V.

In accordance with the friendship which has at all times existed between the two Governments, His Highness the Bey engages to protect British subjects who may come to his country either for the purposes of trade or for travelling. They shall be free to travel or to reside in any part of the Regency without hindrance or molestation; and they shall be treated with respect, love, and honour. They shall be exempt from forced military service, whether by land or by sea; from forced loans, and from every extraordinary contribution. Their dwellings and warehouses destined for the purposes of residence and commerce, as well as their property, both real and personal, of every kind, shall be respected, and, in particular, all the stipulations of the Convention concluded between Her Majesty's Government and His Highness the Bey on the 10th of October, 1863, relative to the permission granted to British subjects to hold real property in the Regency of Tunis, are hereby confirmed. And British subjects, vessels, commerce, and navigation shall enjoy, without any restriction or diminution, all the privileges, favours, and immunities which are now or may hereafter be granted to the subjects, vessels, commerce, and navigation of any other nation whatever.

Her Britannic Majesty, on her part, engages to insure to Tunisian subjects, vessels, commerce, and navigation within her Dominions, the enjoyment of the same protection and privileges which are or may be enjoyed by the subjects, vessels, commerce, and navigation of the most favoured nation.

ARTICLE VI.

The perfect security which His Highness the Bey accords to the British merchants and subjects who may reside in the Regency extends likewise to the free exercise of the rites of their religion. They shall be free to erect churches, upon the application of the British Agent and Consul-General to His Highness the Bey, who will grant the necessary permission. The British Cemetery of Saint George, and other burial places, now or hereafter to be established, shall be protected and respected as heretofore.

ARTICLE VII.

His Highness the Bey engages that he will not prohibit the importation into the Regency of any article the produce and manufacture of the dominions and possessions of Her Britannic Majesty, from whatever place arriving, and that the duties to be levied upon such articles of produce or manufacture so imported shall in no case exceed one fixed rate of eight per cent. *ad valorem*, to be calculated upon the value of such merchandize at the place of landing, or a specific duty, fixed by common consent, equivalent thereto.

Such articles, after paying eight per cent. import duty, shall not be subject to any other internal charge or impost whatsoever, whether the buyer be a Tunisian or a

foreigner. And if such articles should not be sold for consumption in the Regency, but should be re-exported within the space of one year, the Administration of the Customs shall be bound, provided the bales or packages have not been opened, to restore, at the time of their re-exportation, the duty levied to the merchant, who shall be required first to furnish proofs that the goods so exported have paid the said import duty.

After the expiration of one year the merchant shall be free to re-export his foreign goods without claiming the drawback, and the Custom-house shall not levy upon them any duty whatsoever on re-exportation.

Should a British merchant or his agent desire to convey, by sea or by land, from one port or place to another port or place in the Regency of Tunis, goods upon which the *ad valorem* duty above mentioned has been already paid, such goods shall be subject to no further duty, either on their embarkation or disembarkation, provided they be accompanied by a certificate from the Tunisian Administrator of Customs that the duty has been paid.

And it is moreover agreed that no other or higher duties shall be imposed on the importation of any article the produce or manufacture of one of the Contracting Parties into the country of the other, which shall not equally extend to the like articles being the produce or manufacture of any other country.

ARTICLE VIII.

Vessels navigating under the British flag and vessels navigating under the Tunisian flag shall be free to carry on the coasting trade in the States and Dominions of the Contracting Parties. They shall enjoy the same rights and immunities as are enjoyed by national vessels, and they shall be free either to land a portion of their cargoes, or to embark goods, foreign or native, to complete their cargoes, in each other's ports, without being obliged in each case to procure any special license from the Local Authorities, or to pay any charges and dues that are not paid by national vessels.

The stipulations of this Article shall however, as regards the Colonial coasting trade, be deemed to extend only to the coasting trade of such of the Colonial possessions of Her Britannic Majesty as, under the provisions of the Act relating thereto, may have opened their coasting trade to foreign vessels.

ARTICLE IX.

His Highness the Bey formally engages to abolish all monopolies of agricultural produce or of any other article whatsoever, save and except tobacco and salt, and save and except the fisheries, and the tannery of hides of oxen, camels, and horses.

British subjects, however, or their agents, buying or selling salt and tobacco in virtue of licenses or permits for consumption in the Regency of Tunis, shall be subject to the same regulations as the most favoured Tunisian subjects trading in the two articles aforesaid; and, furthermore, they shall be free to compete for, obtain, and exercise the right of fishery, subject to the local laws and regulations.

ARTICLE X.

If British merchants or their agents in the Regency of Tunis should purchase any article of Tunisian produce or manufacture for internal consumption, the said merchants or their agents shall not pay, on the purchase and sale of such articles, any higher duties or charges than are paid, under similar circumstances, by the most favoured class of Tunisians or foreigners engaged in the internal trade of the Regency of Tunis. In like manner Tunisian merchants or their agents in the British dominions shall not pay on the purchase and sale of British produce or manufactures, for internal consumption in the said dominions, higher duties or charges than are paid by British subjects or the most favoured foreigners engaged in the internal trade of the said dominions, upon similar articles of produce or manufacture.

ARTICLE XI.

If a British merchant or his agent shall purchase for exportation any article of Tunisian produce or manufacture, either at the place where such article is produced or in its transit from that place to another, upon which article of produce or manufacture the internal taxes known by the names of "Ushr," "Kanoon," and "Mahsoulat," and others, have been already levied, such article of produce or manufacture shall be subject at the port of shipment to the payment of the export duty only, and the notarial fees and charges for measurement established by law.

ARTICLE XII.

In case of any dispute arising between the Custom-house and a merchant regarding the value to be put upon any merchandize or goods imported by him into the Regency of Tunis, the merchant shall be free to pay the duty in kind, in the most equitable manner.

Should, however, the merchant be unable or unwilling to make use of the above faculty, the Custom-house shall have the right to purchase such merchandize or goods at the price at which the merchant has valued them, with an augmentation of 5 per cent.

But should the foregoing two modes fail to solve the difficulty, His Highness the Bey and Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General shall each name an arbitrator, being a merchant, and, in case of a divergence of opinion, the two arbitrators shall name an umpire, also a merchant, whose decision shall be final.

ARTICLE XIII.

With a view to the encouragement of agriculture, His Highness the Bey furthermore engages to permit the importation, free of import duty and of every other internal charge, of agricultural implements and machinery, as well as of cattle and animals for the improvement of the native breeds, whenever such agricultural implements, machinery, cattle, and animals are proved to be for private use and not for purposes of trade, in which latter case they shall be subject to the payment of an import duty not exceeding 8 per cent.

ARTICLE XIV.

In case the importation of foreign wheat, barley, and Indian corn should be rendered necessary in consequence of the failure of the crops, in consequence of famine or other causes, which God forbid, such foreign wheat, barley, and Indian corn shall be as heretofore exempt from the payment of any import duty, and shall be subject only to the payment of 20 karoobs ($7\frac{1}{2}d.$) per kaffis.

With the exception of the above three articles, all other foreign provisions, such as rice, lentils, beans, and other pulse known by the appellation of "Hashahesh" (dried vegetables) shall pay an import duty not exceeding eight per cent., but the importer or his agent shall be free to sell such provisions in retail or in any other manner without the payment of any other charge whatsoever.

ARTICLE XV.

It is understood between the Contracting Parties that the Tunisian Government reserves to itself the faculty and right of issuing a general prohibition against the importation into the Regency of gunpowder, unless Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General shall think fit to apply for a special license, which license shall, in that case, be granted, provided no valid objection thereto can be alleged.

Gunpowder, when allowed to be imported, shall be subject to a duty not exceeding eight per cent., and shall be liable to the following regulations:—

1. It shall not be sold by subjects of Her Britannic Majesty in quantities exceeding the quantities prescribed by the local regulations.

2. When a cargo, or a large quantity of gunpowder arrives in a Tunisian port on board a British vessel, such vessel shall be anchored at a particular spot, to be designated by the local authorities, and the gunpowder shall then be conveyed, under the inspection of such authorities, to depôts or fitting places, designated by the Government, to which the parties interested shall have access under due regulations.

Gunpowder imported in contravention of the prohibition, or in the absence of the license aforementioned, shall be liable to confiscation, save and except small quantities of gunpowder for sporting reserved for private use, which shall not be subject to the regulations of the present Article.

Cannon, arms of war, or military stores, as well as anchors, masts, and chain cables, shall be imported free of duty, provided they are landed at the opened and recognized ports; provided, also, that previous to the landing of cannon the permission of the Government is obtained.

ARTICLE XVI.

The people of the Contracting Parties shall have the right to establish in each other's country commercial, industrial, and banking companies, co-operative, or mutual or sharcholding associations, or any other association, whether between and amongst them-

selves, or between them and Tunisian subjects or subjects of any other Power: provided the object of such companies and associations be lawful, and subject always to the laws of the country in which they shall be established.

It is, however, understood, that no joint stock companies limited, whose capital is made up of nominal shares to bearer, and no anonymous association shall be established in their respective territories without the authorization of the local Government.

ARTICLE XVII.

British subjects and Tunisian subjects shall be free to exercise in each other's country any art, profession, or industry; to establish manufactories, and factories, and to introduce steam machinery or machinery moved by any other power, without being subjected to any other formality or to the payment of higher or other taxes and imposts than those prescribed by the laws or municipal regulations, or which are paid by natives.

It is understood that the manufactories and their appurtenances, being immovable property, shall be subject to the provisions of the Convention of the 10th October, 1863, relative to the permission granted to British subjects to hold real property in the Regency of Tunis.

ARTICLE XVIII.

No harbour, pilotage, light-house, or quarantine dues, or other local dues, shall be levied upon British vessels, which are not imposed upon Tunisian vessels or upon the vessels of the most favoured nation.

If a British vessel shall enter a Tunisian port from stress of weather and depart, it shall not be subject to the payment of the aforesaid dues, but shall pay only the fee to the pilot, should a pilot be required. Should such vessel, however, visit a Tunisian port for the purpose of procuring water and of purchasing provisions, it shall pay only a portion, not exceeding half, of the harbour, pilotage, light-house, and quarantine or other local dues payable at the said port.

In like manner Tunisian vessels which shall visit any of the ports of Her Majesty's dominions shall pay only the harbour, quarantine, and other dues which are levied upon British vessels.

ARTICLE XIX.

The captains of merchant-vessels having goods on board destined for the Regency of Tunis shall, on their arrival at the port where such goods are to be landed, deposit in the Custom-house of such port a true copy of their manifest.

ARTICLE XX.

If a British subject be detected in smuggling into the Regency any description of goods or should be detected in embarking any goods, the produce of Tunis, for which he can exhibit no Custom-house permit, such goods shall be confiscated by the Tunisian Treasury, but a report or *procès-verbal* of the alleged contraband must, as soon as the said goods are seized by the authorities, be drawn up and communicated to the British Consular authorities, and no goods can be confiscated as contraband unless the fraud with regard to them shall be duly and legally proved.

It is stipulated that vessels navigating under the British flag shall submit to the regulations of the port; that such vessels, speronaras, boats, and the like craft shall not serve as depôts for merchandize; and that whenever their detention in the Tunisian ports shall exceed eight calendar months, they shall, when required to do so, give satisfactory explanations to the British Consular authority and to the Local Authorities in regard to the motive of their detention in such ports. Should such explanations be deemed unsatisfactory, the Custom-house may, with the consent of Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General, place a guard on board for the prevention of fraud, the expenses for such guard being at the charge of the vessel.

ARTICLE XXI.

Should British subjects desire to embark in, or discharge goods from any vessel, they can employ the Tunisian Custom-house boats, paying the usual charges for the use of such boats. They are free, however, to discharge their merchandise without using the Custom-house boats, in which case they will apprize the Administration of the Customs of it in writing, taking care to mention, on the arrival of each steamer or vessel having

goods on board to their consignment, that they will be present themselves, or be represented by their agents, to assist at the discharge of said goods. In case of their absence, however, the Custom-house will proceed to discharge their goods, rendering itself responsible as heretofore, unless in a case of "force majeure." No sort of claim can be preferred by the consignee against the Custom-house on the plea that it had not the right to discharge his goods, seeing that the discharge is made with the sanction of the master of the vessel, and not with that of the Custom-house.

Every consignee who discharges his goods after making the demand in writing, will provide himself with a Custom-house officer, who will accompany him to the vessel and return with him to the Custom-house. The fee to the Custom-house officer shall be paid by the merchant.

ARTICLE XXII.

Whenever the Tunisian Government shall temporarily prohibit the exportation o wheat, barley, cattle, or any other article of native produce, such prohibition shall not come into operation until three months after official notification shall have been given, and shall apply only to the specific article or articles mentioned in the Decree enacting the prohibition.

ARTICLE XXIII.

No British subject, nor any person under British protection, shall, in the Regency of Tunis, be made liable to pay a debt due from another person of his nation unless he shall have made himself responsible or guarantee for the debtor by a valid document. Neither shall any British subject be compelled to sell anything to, or to buy anything from, a Tunisian without his own free will. The seller shall be obliged to deliver up to the purchaser only that portion of the goods which he voluntarily sold to him, and the purchaser shall have no claim or right upon the remaining portion of such goods or merchandize.

In like manner, no Tunisian subject in the Dominions of the Queen of Great Britain shall be made liable to pay a debt due from another person of his nation to a British subject, unless he shall have made himself responsible or guarantee for the debtor by a valid document.

ARTICLE XXIV.

In all criminal cases and complaints where the prosecutor and prisoner are British subjects, and in all civil differences, disputes, or litigation which may occur between British subjects exclusively, the Agent and Consul-General, Consul, or other British authority, shall be sole judge or arbiter. No one shall interfere, but they shall be amenable to the British Consular Courts only.

All civil differences, disputes, or litigations between British subjects and the subjects of any foreign country other than Great Britain, shall be decided solely in the Tribunals of the foreign Consuls, according to the usages heretofore established, or which may hereafter be arranged between such Consuls, without the interference of the Tunisian Courts or Government.

ARTICLE XXV.

Disputes and differences arising between a British and a Tunisian subject, whether the British subject is plaintiff or defendant, of a commercial and civil nature (criminal and correctional excepted), shall be settled by His Highness the Bey, or his delegate, in the presence and with the concurrence of the British Consul-General or Consul.

It is likewise agreed that, should any new procedure differing from the above, be adopted and applied at present, or in future, in the treatment of any other nation, the British subjects, without exception, shall be entitled to the enjoyment thereof, whenever Her Majesty's Government shall request it.

It is, however, understood that, if Mixed Courts should be at any time established in Tunis with the assent and approval of Her Majesty's Government, in that case all civil and commercial suits and disputes arising between British and Tunisian subjects shall be heard and determined by such Mixed Courts and Tribunals, according to the rules and procedure that may be agreed upon between the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE XXVI.

The cognizance of crimes committed by British subjects in the Tunisian territory, as well as all contraventions of the police, and other regulations, shall devolve upon the Consul-General or Consul; and the punishment thereof shall be applied by the said Consul-General or Consul, in concurrence with His Highness the Bey. In case the criminal or offender should escape from the Consular, or other prison, the Consul-General or Consul shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

ARTICLE XXVII.

No quittance or receipt presented by a British subject to a Court, purporting to be a discharge of a debt which he has contracted towards a Tunisian subject, shall be held as a legal and a valid discharge, unless he can show that such quittance or receipt is under the handwriting, seal, or signature of the Tunisian subject, or duly executed by native notaries, and attested by the Cadi or the Governor of the place. And in like manner no quittance or receipt presented by a Tunisian subject, purporting to be a discharge of a debt which he has contracted towards a British subject, shall be held as a legal and valid discharge of his debt, unless he can show that such quittance or discharge is under the handwriting, signature, or mark of the British subject, duly attested by the Consul, or unless the discharge is drawn up by two notaries and attested by the British Consul.

ARTICLE XXVIII.

Should any Tunisian subject be found guilty before the Tunisian Courts of procuring false evidence to the injury or prejudice of a British subject, he shall be severely punished by the Tunisian Government. In like manner, the competent British Consular authorities shall severely punish, according to English law, any British subject who may be convicted of the same offence against a Tunisian subject.

ARTICLE XXIX.

If, at any time, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General, Consul, Vice-Consul, or Consular Agent, should require the assistance of soldiers, guards, armed boats, or other aid for the purpose of arresting or transporting any British subject, the Tunisian authorities shall immediately comply with the demand, on payment of the usual fees given on such occasions by Tunisian subjects.

ARTICLE XXX.

If a ship belonging to the Queen of Great Britain, or to any of Her subjects, should be wrecked or stranded on any part of the coast of the Regency of Tunis, the Tunisian authorities within whose jurisdiction the accident may occur shall, in accordance with the rules of friendship, respect her and assist her in all her wants. They shall allow and enable the master to take such steps as he may think necessary or desirable, and shall take immediate steps for the protection of her crew and of her cargo, and of any good papers, or other articles which may be saved from her at the time of the wreck or afterwards; and, moreover, they shall lose no time in informing the nearest British authority of the accident. They shall deliver over to him, without exception or loss, all the cargo, goods, papers, and articles which have been saved and preserved from the wreck, and they shall likewise furnish the master and the crew of the wrecked ship with such victuals and provisions as they may require, for which they shall receive payment. For their friendly aid and services in protecting, saving, preserving, and restoring to the British Consular authorities the goods and contents saved through their exertions from the wrecked vessel, or any portion thereof, they shall be entitled to such an amount of salvage as Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General and the Chief Tunisian authority on the spot shall judge a fair compensation for their services. The master and crew shall be at liberty to proceed to any place they please, and at any time they may think proper, without any hindrance.

In like manner, the ships of His Highness the Bey, or of Tunisian subjects, shall be assisted and protected in the dominions of the Queen of Great Britain as though they were British ships, and shall be subject only to the same lawful charges of salvage to which British ships, under similar circumstances, are liable.

ARTICLE XXXI.

Should, however (which God forbid), the crew or any portion of the crew of a wrecked or stranded British vessel be murdered by the natives, or its cargo, or any part of its cargo or contents, be stolen by them, the Tunisian Government binds itself to take the most prompt and energetic measures for seizing the marauders or robbers, in order to proceed to their severe punishment. It, moreover, engages to make the most diligent search for the recovery and restitution of the stolen property; and whatever compensation for the damage done to individuals or to their effects, under similar circumstances, is granted, or may hereafter be granted to the subjects of the most favoured nation, or the equivalent of it, shall be also accorded to the subjects of the Queen of Great Britain.

ARTICLE XXXII.

It is agreed and covenanted that if any of the crew of Her Majesty's ships of war or of British merchant-vessels, of whatever nationality they may be, borne on the papers of said ships, shall desert within any port in the Regency of Tunis, the authorities of such port or territory shall be bound to give every assistance in their power for the apprehension of such deserters, on the application of the British authority. In like manner, if any of the crew of the ships of His Highness the Bey, or of Tunisian merchant-vessels, not being slaves, shall desert in any of the ports or harbours, within the dominions of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, the authorities of such ports or harbour shall give every assistance in their power for the apprehension of such deserters on the application of the Commanding Officer, Captain, or any other Tunisian authority, and no person whatsoever shall protect or harbour such deserters.

ARTICLE XXXIII.

The ships of war belonging to Her Majesty the Queen, and the ships belonging to His Highness the Bey, shall have free liberty to use the ports of each country for washing, cleansing, and repairing any of their defects, and to buy for their use any sort of provisions alive or dead, or any other necessaries, at the market price, without paying custom to any officer.

And it is moreover agreed that, whenever any of Her Majesty's ships of war shall arrive in the Bay of Tunis, and shall fire a salute of twenty-one guns, the Castle of the Goletta, or the Tunisian ships of war, shall return the same number of guns as the Royal salute to Her Majesty's colours, according to ancient usage.

ARTICLE XXXIV.

The Government of the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in consideration of the sincere friendship that has at all times existed between Her Majesty and His Highness the Bey, agrees that Tunisian ships and cargoes shall be received at the ports and harbours of the British dominions upon the same footing as British vessels and cargoes.

ARTICLE XXXV.

British vessels arriving in any of the Tunisian ports for the purpose of trade or by reason of stress of weather, or to repair damages, shall not be compelled to discharge their cargoes or any portion of their cargoes, and they shall not be made to change their destination or to receive any passengers on board unless it be with their own free will, but they shall be respected, and they shall be allowed to depart without any hindrance. Should they be compelled to land their cargoes, or a portion thereof, in order to effect repairs, they shall also be permitted to re-embark such goods free of any duty or charge whatsoever.

Tunisian vessels shall receive the like friendly treatment in ports and harbours of the British dominions.

ARTICLE XXXVI.

If any British subject should die in any place or territory appertaining to His Highness the Bey, no Governor or other Tunisian officer shall, on any pretence whatsoever, take possession or dispose of, or interfere with the goods and property of the deceased, but such goods and property, of whatever description, may be taken possession

of by his heirs, or by the British Consular authority, without any hindrance or impediment whatsoever on the part of such Governor or Tunisian officer.

If, however, a British subject should die at a place where there is no British Consul, or whilst travelling, in such a case the Tunisian authorities of the place where he died shall be bound to preserve and protect his goods and effects: they shall make, with the assistance of notaries, a faithful inventory of them, which inventory they shall lose no time in sending to the nearest Governor of a place where an English Consul resides.

Should the deceased British subject leave behind him debts due from him to a native, the Consul-General or his deputy shall assist the creditor in the recovery of his claim upon the estate of the deceased; and, likewise, if the deceased should leave behind debts due to him from Tunisians, the Governor, or those who have such power, shall compel the debtors to pay what is due by them to the Consul-General or his deputy, for the benefit of the estate of the deceased.

ARTICLE XXXVII.

The British Government and His Highness the Bey, moved by sentiments of humanity and having regard to the free institutions which, under Providence, their respective countries happily enjoy, mutually engage to do all in their power for the suppression of slavery. Whilst, on the one part, the British Government engage not to relax their efforts with friendly powers for the prevention of the barbarous traffic in human beings, and for the emancipation of slaves, His Highness the Bey especially engages, on the other, to cause the Declaration of Moharem, 1262 (23rd January, 1846), abolishing for ever slavery in the Regency, to be obeyed and respected, and to use his utmost efforts to discover and punish all persons within his Regency who contravene or act contrary thereto.

ARTICLE XXXVIII.

The British Government and His Highness the Bey engage to do all in their power for the suppression of piracy; and His Highness especially engages to use his utmost efforts to discover and punish all persons on his coasts or within his territory who may be guilty of that crime, and to aid the British Government in so doing.

ARTICLE XXXIX.

Privateering is now and for ever abolished: His Highness the Bey being desirous to maintain inviolable the neutrality of the Regency of Tunis, it has been established and agreed that, in case of war or hostilities, he shall not permit the enemies of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain to fit out privateers in the ports of the Regency, or to sail from them to prey upon the ships and commerce of her subjects; and it is moreover established that His Highness shall not permit or tolerate in the Regency of Tunis the sale of any prize whatsoever which shall have belonged or may belong to the belligerents.

The Queen of Great Britain will cause to be observed the same rules of neutrality towards Tunisian ships and subjects in all the seaports of Her Majesty's dominions.

ARTICLE XL.

In order that the two Contracting Parties may have the opportunity of hereafter treating and agreeing upon such other arrangements as may tend still further to the improvement of their mutual intercourse, and to the advancement of the interests of their respective people, it is agreed that at any time after the expiration of seven years from the date of the present Convention of Commerce and Navigation, either of the High Contracting Parties shall have the right to call upon the other to enter upon a revision of the same; but until such revision shall have been accomplished by common consent, and a new Convention shall have been concluded and put into operation, the present Convention shall continue and remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XLI.

If any doubt should arise with regard to the interpretation or the application of any of the stipulations of the present Convention, it is agreed that in Tunis the interpretation the most favourable to British subjects shall be given, and in Her Majesty's dominions that most favourable to Tunisians. It is not pretended by any of the foregoing Articles to stipulate for more than the plain and fair construction of the terms employed, nor to preclude in any manner the Tunisian Government from the exercise of its rights of

internal administration where the exercise of those rights does not evidently infringe upon the privileges accorded by the present Convention to British subjects or British commerce.

ARTICLE XLII.

The stipulations of the present Convention shall come into immediate operation and shall be substituted for the stipulations of all preceding Treaties between Great Britain and Tunis, with the exception of the Convention of the 10th of October, 1863, already referred to in Article XVII preceding, which is renewed and confirmed.

This Convention has been written in triplicate, consisting in forty-two Articles, besides the introduction, and contained in the preceding forty-three pages, to be signed by both parties, and to be executed in the manner explained and clearly set forth in its several provisions, having for object the duration, confirmation, and maintenance of amity between them.

Dated Monday, the sixteenth day of Gumad-el-Thany, 1292 of the Hegira, corresponding to the nineteenth of July, 1875.

(L.S.) RICHARD WOOD.

(L.S.) MUHAMMAD AS-SADIG PASHA,
Bey.

TUNIS. No. 1 (1876).

General Convention between the Governments of Great Britain and Tunis.

Signed in the English and Arabic Languages, July 19, 1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. 1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

TURKEY. No. 2 (1876).

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS

IN

BOSNIA AND THE HERZEGOVINA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

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Correspondence respecting Affairs in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

No. 1.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 17.)

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, July* 2, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that there is disturbance in the Herzegovina. Early last winter, some 164 of the inhabitants of the district of Nevessin left their homes and went into Montenegro. After remaining there some months, however, they petitioned the Porte to be allowed to return to Nevessin. The Governor-General advised the Porte to reply, that as they had chosen to leave their country for Montenegro, they might remain there. The Government, however, decided to accept their request, and allowed them to return. Shortly afterwards they appeared in revolt, declared that they were oppressed, refusing to pay their taxes or to admit the police among them, and they have been endeavouring by intimidation to cause their neighbours in the surrounding districts to join them. The Mutesarif of Mostar invited them to come to that place to state their grievances, which he assured them would be redressed, but they refused, and the Governor-General tells me that they cut to pieces a man quite unconnected with them who had gone to Mostar to seek redress for some grievance, and threatened with the same fate any within their reach who should do so in future. The Governor-General informs me that at present he has no intention of sending troops against them, but will prevent their efforts to extend their revolt by surrounding these districts with policemen, and he will probably send some of the notables of Serajevo to endeavour to bring them to reason. Thus the matter stands at present.

No. 2.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 19.)

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, July* 9, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 2nd July, regarding the disturbances in the Herzegovina, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that on the same day the Governor-General sent Haidar Bey and Petrarchi Effendi, two notables of Serajevo, to communicate with the insurgents, who belong to the four villages of Loukavach, Sovidol, Belgrad, and Terrousiné, in the district of Nevessin.

Before they reached these villages, however, the disaffected peasants, who had forced and persuaded many others to join them, had attacked and captured a caravan of twenty-five horses on the road from Mostar to Nevessin, belonging to some merchants of Serajevo, laden with rice, sugar, and coffee, which they carried off to the village of Odrichnia. At the same time, they murdered and decapitated five Turkish travellers, named Salih Kassumovich, Marich, Samich, Ali of Nevessin, and another whose name is not yet known, a native of Hrasné. One of the insurgents, named Tchoubaté, at the head of about 300 followers, drove away forty zaptiehs placed in the defile of Stolatz, and separating into small bands have for the moment intercepted the various roads in the neighbourhood. One band is stationed at the bridge over the Kruppa, and renders the road

between Mostar and Meteovich unsafe. The detached bands of insurgents are endeavouring to force others to join them by burning the houses of those who refuse to do so, and other means of intimidation.

The Governor-General has received telegrams from Mostar, signed by the two Commissioners and the Mutesarif and Commander of the troops at Mostar, stating these facts; also that the headless bodies of the Turks have been recovered and buried. Under these circumstances the Commissioners hesitated to continue their journey; and the authorities at Mostar state that great excitement prevails throughout the Mussulman population, who are impatient to attack the insurgents and avenge the savage murders of their co-religionists, whose decapitation has particularly roused their feelings; and requesting five battalions to keep order.

No. 3.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, July 16, 1875.*

THE disturbances in the Herzegovina seem sufficiently serious to make it desirable that Her Majesty's Government should be supplied with correct information respecting them.

I would, therefore, submit to your Lordship's consideration whether it might not be desirable to authorize Mr. Holmes, Her Majesty's Consul at Bosna-Seraï, if he should think it necessary, either to go himself or to send some one in whom he had confidence, to Mostar.

No. 4.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 19, 1875.*

IT is reported that disturbances have broken out in certain districts in Bosnia, and I have to state to you that you are at liberty to proceed to Mostar or elsewhere, with a view of collecting accurate information as to the state of the country.

Should you consider it unadvisable to absent yourself from your post, you are authorized, if you see fit, to employ on this service any person in whom you have full confidence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 5.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 13, 1875.*

THE reports received from Bosnia are beginning to cause the Porte considerable uneasiness.

Insubordination among the villagers of various places in the vicinity of Mostar had been incited by the 160 refugees who had lately returned from Montenegro, and the last accounts received from the Governor-General report them as having attacked and robbed a caravan, killing five of the persons in charge of it.

The Governor-General states these five men to have been Mussulmans, but the movement does not seem to be confined to the Christian population, and is apparently provoked by a resistance to taxation, and to the conscription.

To prevent the movement from extending, the Governor-General of Bosnia has been authorized to send a battalion of troops from Bosna-Seraï to Mostar, but it is not intended that they should revert to active measures of suppression till it is ascertained that it may not be possible to tranquillize the people by conciliatory means.

With this object, Constant Effendi, who had been sent as Turkish Commissioner on the Montenegrin frontier question, has been directed to proceed to the scene of the

disturbance, to ascertain the grievances complained of, and to endeavour to satisfy all the people that any just complaints shall receive consideration from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 6.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 25.)

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, July 16, 1875.*

THE disturbances in the Herzegovina still continue. Constant Effendi and Hassan Pasha reached Nevessin on the day fixed by the insurgents for meeting them there. The former, however, did not appear, but sent word that, as their party was dispersed among the mountains and forests, they could not come till the 15th. The Governor-General thinks they have no intention of meeting Constant Effendi, and only wish to gain time; and Constant Effendi writes that he sees little chance of the people listening to reason. In the meanwhile, during the week, one or two small skirmishes have taken place between parties of zaptiehs and pandours and the insurgents, in which three or four of the former have been killed. What loss the latter have suffered is not known. The police have recovered eight or ten packages belonging to the caravan which I reported had been captured. The roads are considered unsafe between Mostar and Metcovich, and all the inhabitants of the villages on the road are armed and watching in expectation of being attacked, though their attitude is inspired, the Governor-General asserts, more by their own fears than the actual presence of any rebels.

No. 7.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 29, 1875.*

I HAVE to state to you that I have been informed by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador that, owing to troubles in the Herzegovina, the Government of His Majesty the Emperor and King has thought it necessary to make known to His Majesty the Sultan the measures taken by the Austro-Hungarian Authorities in order to prevent any complication.

As regards the measures in question, the Commandant of Dalmatia has received an order to admit into the territory of this province only such refugees from Herzegovina as shall have laid down their arms. Two companies, having been told off to guard the frontiers, and to carry into effect the instruction given to the Governor of Dalmatia, have been sent to Metkovich, and the Government is convinced that they will be sufficient to perform the duty which has been imposed upon them.

The Austro-Hungarian Government has also made known to the Sublime Porte that it considers the rising in the Herzegovina as an affair concerning only the internal administration of Turkey ("une affaire intérieure de la Turquie").

The news received up to the present by the Austro-Hungarian Government does not justify the serious apprehensions which may have been excited by the intelligence of troubles in the Herzegovina.

This rising, in the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government, has its origin in discontent arising from financial causes, and is not likely to find sympathy either among Austrian or Montenegrin subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 8.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, July* 20, 1875.

SAFVET PASHA communicated to me yesterday the substance of the last Reports received by the Porte upon the movement in the Herzegovina, which were anything but satisfactory.

The malcontents had refused to receive the Imperial Commissioners, who, at their own request, had been sent to investigate their grievances, except under conditions which it would not have been safe for them to comply with.

The principal scene of the insubordination I understand to be in the neighbourhood of Nevessin, to the south-east of Mostar, but it has exhibited itself also towards the Dalmatian frontier, near Melkovitch, where the Austrian Government have placed some troops.

The report of the Mussulmans being united with the Christians proves to be incorrect, for they appear to be, on the contrary, greatly exasperated by the murder of many of their countrymen.

No. 9.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 2.)

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, July* 24, 1875.

CONSTANT EFFENDI and Hassan Pasha are on their way here from Nevessin, having totally failed in coming to any understanding with the insurgents. They have had two interviews. The Commissioners promised that all their grievances should be carefully examined and redressed, provided they would lay down their arms, but they insisted that all their terms should be accepted before they would consent to do so. The Commissioners declared the Government would not accord any demands made under such circumstances, and negotiations have been broken off.

The Governor-General has given orders to the troops to act, but it appears that he has little more than three battalions available for aggressive operations. Of the seven or eight battalions stationed in the Herzegovina, he cannot, he declares, displace a man, and that the different garrisons ought to be strengthened rather than weakened. However, three battalions, marching from different points, have received orders to attack the villages of Belgrade and Sovidol, in Nevessin, and early next week the result will be known. No further murders or acts of brigandage have happened during the week.

No. 10.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August* 11.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 9 *Août*, 1875.

LES insurgés de l'Herzégovine ne paraissent pas disposés à suivre les conseils paternels que les autorités locales ont été chargées de leur faire parvenir. Le Gouvernement Impériale s'est abstenu jusqu'à présent de sévir; il a fait tout son possible pour éviter l'effusion de sang, et a poussé la modération jusqu'à ses dernières limites. Mais, devant leur résistance et leur conduite, nous sommes réduits à procéder aux moyens coërcitifs pour étouffer sans plus de retard l'insurrection, et rétablir la tranquillité.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 9, 1875.

THE insurgents in the Herzegovina do not appear disposed to follow the paternal advice that the local authorities have been desired to communicate to them. The Imperial Government has up to now abstained from extreme measures. It has done all that was in its power in order to avoid bloodshed, and has pushed moderation to its furthest limits. But in consequence of their resistance and their conduct, we are forced to proceed to means of coercion in order to stifle the insurrection without further delay, and to re-establish tranquillity.

No. 11.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby, August* 11.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 10 *Août*, 1875.

L'INSURRECTION de l'Herzégovine prend de jour en jour des proportions graves. Les dispositions sympathiques qui se manifestent en Dalmatie en faveur des insurgés, le secours en hommes et en argent qu'on leur fournit, les envois successifs de bandes composées de Dalmates et de Monténégrins, l'insuffisance ou plutôt l'inefficacité des moyens de répression adoptés par le Gouvernement d'Autriche-Hongrie et par le Prince Nicholas, la présence d'un corps d'armée Serbe, composé de neuf mille hommes avec son artillerie dans le voisinage du théâtre de l'insurrection, et enfin tous ces mouvements donnent lieu à penser que l'insurrection éclatée dans cette partie de l'Empire ne peut être autre chose que le commencement de l'exécution d'un plan arrêté de longue main. La Sublime Porte ne doute nullement des sentiments d'amitié du Cabinet de Vienne envers elle. Le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois nous a d'ailleurs donné des assurances sur sa ferme intention d'empêcher toute participation de la population Dalmate à l'insurrection, néanmoins il est évident qu'une démarche amicale de la part du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique tendante à amener le Cabinet de Vienne à prendre des mesures sérieuses et efficaces sur ses frontières facilitera notre tâche dans l'apaisement de l'insurrection. Veuillez entretenir confidentiellement Lord Derby de ce qui précède et faire appel, au nom de la Sublime Porte, à ses sentiments de bienveillance à notre égard pour provoquer la démarche qui nous paraît nécessaire dans ces circonstances et qui viendrait ainsi appuyer celle que nous venons de faire à Vienne. Nous laissons en même temps à l'appréciation de sa Seigneurie l'opportunité d'exercer son influence salutaire à Belgrade et à Cettigné.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 10, 1875.

THE insurrection in the Herzegovina is daily assuming more serious proportions. The sympathetic dispositions which are manifested in Dalmatia in favour of the insurgents; the assistance in men and money which is furnished to them; the continuous despatch of bands composed of Dalmatians and Montenegrins; the insufficiency, or, rather, the inefficiency, of the repressive measures adopted by the Austro-Hungarian Government and by the Prince Nicholas; the presence of a Servian corps d'armée, composed of 9,000 men with artillery, in the neighbourhood of the scene of the insurrection; and, lastly, all these movements, give good cause to believe that the insurrection which has broken out in this part of the Empire can be only the beginning of the execution of a design long since settled upon. The Sublime Porte entertains no doubts of the friendly sentiments of the Cabinet of Vienna. The Austro-Hungarian Government has moreover assured us of its firm intention to prevent the Dalmatian population from taking any part in the insurrection; nevertheless it is evident that a friendly step on the part of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, having for its object to induce the Cabinet of Vienna to take serious and efficacious measures upon its frontier, would facilitate our task in the quelling of the insurrection. Please speak, confidentially, to Lord Derby in the above sense, and make an appeal, on behalf of the Sublime Porte, to his feelings of friendship towards us to induce him to take the step which, under the circumstances, seems necessary for us, and which would thus help to support our own action at Vienna. We at the same time suggest to his Lordship the advisability of exerting a salutary influence at Belgrade and Cettigne.

No. 12.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Ffrench.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1875.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a telegraphic despatch from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha respecting the Herzegovina insurrection, which the latter communicated to me yesterday.*

This despatch states that the Government of Austro-Hungary has assured the Porte of its firm intention to prevent the Dalmatian population from taking part in the insurrection; but that, nevertheless, the Porte considers it evident that a friendly representation

* No. 11.

from Her Majesty's Government, tending to induce the Cabinet of Vienna to take serious and efficient measures on the frontier, would assist the Turkish Government in quelling the insurrection.

I told the Turkish Ambassador in reply that Her Majesty's Government had also received with satisfaction information to the same effect with regard to the attitude of Austria, and that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to learn that the Government of Austro-Hungary had taken steps to secure the peace of the frontier and to prevent the disturbances in Herzegovina from receiving support or encouragement from Austrian territory.

I added that Her Majesty's Government would instruct you to speak in this sense to Count Andrassy, and I have to request that you will do so accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 13.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 12, 1875.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegraphic despatch communicated to me by Musurus Pasha respecting the Herzegovina insurrection,* together with a copy of an instruction which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna,† directing him to inform Count Andrassy that Her Majesty's Government had heard with satisfaction of the assurances given by the Austro-Hungarian Government of their intention to prevent the Dalmatian population taking part in the insurrection, and would be glad to learn that they had taken steps to secure the peace of the frontier, and to prevent the disturbances in Herzegovina from receiving support or encouragement from Austrian territory.

The Turkish Government also appeals to Her Majesty's Government to use their influence at Belgrade and at Cettigné.

Her Majesty's Government are not aware whether your Excellency may have any opportunity of advising the Prince of Montenegro to restrain his subjects from aiding the insurrection. Should such an opportunity offer they do not doubt that you would avail yourself of it, and they wish you to direct Her Majesty's Agent at Belgrade to use his best efforts to counteract any dispositions which may be apparent in Servia to aid or foment the disturbances.

At the same time Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Turkish Government should rely on their own resources to suppress the insurrection, and should deal with it as a local outbreak of disorder rather than give international importance to it, by appealing for support to other Powers.

I have informed Musurus Pasha of the substance of this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 14.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1875.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called at the Foreign Office to-day, and said that he had received a telegraphic despatch from his Government, stating that the Turkish Representative at Rome had communicated to M. Visconti Venosta a Circular telegraphic despatch, containing very serious intelligence from Herzegovina, showing a state of things there which already gave rise to anxiety. The Porte begged the Italian Government to join the other Powers in counselling the Princes of Servia and Montenegro to observe a prudent attitude, and take measures for preventing their subjects from aiding the insurrection.

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires added that he was instructed by his Government to inquire what were the views of Her Majesty's Government on the matter.

I informed him, in reply, of the instructions which Her Majesty's Government had

* No. 11. † No. 12.

given to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna, of which copies are inclosed.*

I also told him that I had heard that the Austrian Government had given orders to admit the disembarkation of Turkish troops at Klek.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No 15.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 24.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 22 Août*, 1875.

MES précédents télégrammes vous ont fait connaître l'origine des événements de l'Herzégovine, ainsi que le cours qu'ils ont suivi. La Sublime Porte a fait tout au monde pour ne pas arriver à une extrémité fâcheuse. Mais, devant le résultat négatif de ses efforts, elle se trouve dans la pénible nécessité de faire usage de la force. Aujourd'hui les dispositions nécessaires sont prises en vue d'une prompte répression de la révolte, et des troupes en nombre suffisant sont concentrées sur le théâtre de l'insurrection.

Toutefois, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances viennent de nous faire la proposition suivante :—

Les Délégues des Puissances devraient se rendre auprès des insurgés pour leur faire comprendre qu'ils ne sauraient attendre de secours d'aucune Puissance étrangère, ni des Principautés voisines, et que, s'ils ont quelque grief à formuler contre l'administration locale, ils n'ont qu'à envoyer leurs hommes de confiance auprès du Commissaire Extraordinaire de la Sublime Porte, délégué expressément de Constantinople pour entendre les plaintes de la population. Ce haut fonctionnaire ne manquera pas d'accueillir avec bienveillance ce qu'il y aura de légitime dans les demandes qui lui parviendront, et redressera les griefs fondés. Aussitôt après avoir rempli leur mandat, les Consuls retourneront immédiatement à leurs postes sans attendre le résultat définitif des pourparlers directs entre les autorités Ottomanes et la population insurgée.

Appréciant les sentiments d'humanité qui ont dicté cette démarche, et désireux avant tout d'éviter l'effusion du sang et de maintenir la paix, le Gouvernement Impérial a accepté cette proposition comme dernière tentative d'apaisement; et il a décidé d'envoyer à Mostar son Excellence Server Pacha, en qualité de Commissaire Impérial.

Dégageant par cette dernière condescendance sa responsabilité vis-à-vis des éventualités à venir, le Gouvernement Impérial se réserve, dans le cas où les démarches des Consuls n'aboutiraient pas au résultat désiré, d'employer la force et d'en finir avec cette malheureuse affaire.

Vous êtes autorisé à vous énoncer dans le sens de cette dépêche auprès du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August* 22, 1875.

MY former telegrams will have acquainted you with the origin of the events in the Herzegovina, as well as with the course which they have taken. The Sublime Porte has done everything possible to avoid being driven to a painful extremity. But, in presence of the negative result of her efforts, she finds herself under the painful necessity of employing force. At the present moment the necessary dispositions are taken with a view to the prompt repression of the revolt, and troops in sufficient numbers are concentrated at the scene of the insurrection.

The Representatives of the Great Powers, however, have just made to us the following propositions :—

That the delegates of the Powers should seek out the insurgents and make them understand that they cannot expect help from any foreign Power, nor from the neighbouring Principalities, and that, if they have any complaint to make against the local administration, they have only to send their confidential agents before the Extraordinary Commissioner of the Sublime Porte, sent expressly from Constantinople to listen to the complaints of the population. This high functionary will not fail to receive with kindness any legitimate demands which may be made to him, and will redress well-founded complaints. As soon

* Nos. 12 and 13.

as they shall have fulfilled their mission, the Consuls will return immediately to their posts, without waiting for the definitive result of the direct negotiations between the Ottoman authorities and the insurgent population.

Appreciating the feelings of humanity which have dictated this step, and desiring above all things to avoid bloodshed and to maintain peace, the Imperial Government has accepted this proposition as a last attempt at pacification; and it has decided to send to Mostar his Excellency Server Pasha in the capacity of Imperial Commissioner.

Thus freeing itself by this last act of condescension of its responsibility as regards future eventualities, the Imperial Government reserves to itself the right, in case the action of the Consuls does not attain the desired result, of employing force and of putting an end to this unhappy affair.

You are authorized to express yourself in the sense of this despatch to the Government to which you are accredited.

No. 16.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 24, 1875.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your telegraphic despatch of the 20th instant, in which you report that a proposal concerted at Vienna by the three Northern Powers has been made to the Porte by the Ambassadors.

Your Excellency states that they propose that Consuls should be delegated by the Embassies to proceed to the scene of the insurrection, and inform the insurgents that they must expect no support or countenance from their Governments. They are also to advise the insurgents to desist from hostilities, but to make known their complaints to a Commission. The Delegates are not to go further than this, but are to leave the rest to the Turkish Commission.

Your Excellency adds that the French Ambassador has received instructions to associate himself in this action, and that you had told him you would be ready to join. The proposal is, moreover, favourably received by the Porte, and the Grand Vizier had just been to you to beg you not to stand aloof.

Her Majesty's Government have given the proposal thus made their serious consideration, and now authorize your Excellency to join the other Ambassadors in sending Consuls to the scene of the insurrection, as proposed.

Her Majesty's Government consent to this step with reluctance, as they doubt the expediency of the intervention of foreign Consuls. Such an intervention is scarcely compatible with the independent authority of the Porte over its own territory, offers an inducement to insurrection as a means of appealing to foreign sympathy against Turkish rule, and may not improbably open the way to further diplomatic interference in the internal affairs of the Empire.

Since, however, the Porte has begged your Excellency not to stand aloof, Her Majesty's Government feel that they have no alternative. They desire, at the same time, that the Turkish Government should understand that the assent of Her Majesty's Government is given at their own instance, and that Her Majesty's Government would have thought it better that the Porte should have dealt with the insurgents without foreign intervention of any kind.

Her Majesty's Government request your Excellency to report who are the Consuls whom it may be determined to send, and the instructions given to them, which Her Majesty's Government suppose will be agreed upon by the respective Embassies, and be identic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 17.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, August* 20, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison of a proposal made to the Porte by the Ambassadors of the three Northern Powers for sending delegates from the Embassies to the scene of the insurrection in the Herzegovina.

Count Zichy called upon me and explained that this step had been concerted at Vienna between the three Governments, but that there was to be no identic communication from them to the Porte.

The Grand Vizier called upon me this afternoon, having previously seen both the Austrian and Russian Ambassadors, his object being to beg me not to hold back from instructing Mr. Holmes in the same sense as that in which my colleagues propose to instruct their respective Consuls.

He looked upon this as a matter of the utmost importance to the Porte, and his anxiety that a British Consular Agent should join those of the other Powers was increased by his knowledge of Mr. Holmes, in whom he knew the Porte could place perfect confidence.

Inclosure in No. 17.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Therapia, August* 19, 1875.

NOT having been able to answer the Grand Vizier's question this afternoon as to whether your Excellency had had any communication from Safvet Pasha respecting a proposal which was made to the Porte yesterday by three Ambassadors, namely, of Russia, Germany, and Austria, I have been desired by his Highness to acquaint you with the nature of the same.

In view of the insurrectionary movement in the Herzegovina acquiring greater extension, it was proposed that three delegates, representing the three Embassies, should proceed to the scene of the insurrrection and formally declare to the insurgents that they must expect no support or encouragement whatever from Russia, Germany, and Austria, as well as from any of the Principalities.

Moreover, that they should advise and recommend the insurgents to desist from hostilities, and make known, through a deputation, their complaints and grievances to a High Commissioner appointed by the Porte to hear and examine them; the proposition provides that the mission of the delegates should go no further, and that the rest of the task should entirely devolve upon the Porte's Commissioner.

His Highness said he would wish to come and see your Excellency on the subject to-morrow, and seemed on the whole rather in favour of the proposal in question.

I beg leave to add, on reliable authority, that there is a notion already of selecting Server Pasha as the Porte's Commissioner for the object above referred to.

No. 18.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 30.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, August* 21, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have just addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, regarding an insurrection that has broken out in the North of Bosnia, near Gradiska.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Acting Consul Freeman to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Bosna Seraï, August* 21, 1875.

ON the 16th instant Mr. Holmes telegraphed to your Excellency that an insurrection had broken out in the north of Bosnia, near Gradiska; that this was extremely serious, and that more troops would be required from Constantinople.

This movement originally began at Kozaratz, in the district of Griedor, and is said to have been at the instigation of a certain Pezzia, a renowned brigand in Bosnia some eighteen years ago. He was in prison at Constantinople for many years, and was then sent to Bosnia to complete his term of imprisonment. On the way, however, he managed to

escape from the police who had charge of him, and has since then lived in Servia. The insurgents at first intercepted the road from Banialuka to Gradiska and cut the telegraph wire, but they appear to have soon retired from that vicinity, and telegraphic communication has been re-established. They have burnt several of the guard-houses placed along the frontier, and put to death a non-commissioned officer and two privates of a frontier regiment whom they found in one of them; also one or two other acts of violence and murder are said to have been committed by them. Their number, which is variously stated at figures varying between 300 and 600, is slightly on the increase; and they have advanced as far as Kobash, about four hours from Derbent, on the Brood road. Two battalions of redif and two squadrons of cavalry have been sent against them, and it is reported there will be an encounter either to-morrow or the next day. A battalion of redif has also been stationed at Derbent, to watch the Brood road, and endeavour to keep communication with the frontier uninterrupted.

No. 19.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 25, 1875.*

THE instructions with which the Consuls who are to proceed to the Herzegovina have been furnished by their respective Embassies, although differing in words, have been drawn up in a similar sense.

While all appearance of identic action seemed to be undesirable, it was necessary that any communications which they might be able to hold with the insurgents should be strictly confined to inducing them to return to their allegiance.

The French and Russian and Austrian Consuls at Scutari will be intrusted with this duty, Germany having instructed her Consul at Ragusa, and Italy her Danube Commissioner, to proceed to the scene of the conflict.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 20.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 3.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August 26, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the instructions which I have addressed to Mr. Consul Holmes, which are quite similar in substance to those of my colleagues to their agents.

I also inclose a second despatch with which I have accompanied these instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Therapia, August 24, 1875.*

IT has been considered that a tranquilizing influence might be exercised over the Christian insurgents in the Herzegovina through the Consuls of the different Powers in the neighbourhood of the movement, and I have to request you to associate yourself with your colleagues in the task of conciliation entrusted to them by their Governments.

You will therefore concert with them as to the place in which it will be desirable to commence your operations, and where you may meet to exchange your ideas and compare your impressions.

Although the views and instructions of the different Governments are identic, you will at the same time take the greatest pains to avoid everything that, either in the eyes of the Turkish authorities or in those of the insurgents, might have the appearance of a united action; and you will therefore abstain from collective steps, but will rather act individually.

You will represent yourself as the agent of a friendly Government charged with a mission of conciliation, and your efforts must be directed to making the insurgents understand that they must not calculate upon the support of any Power, and to persuading them to enter into negotiations with the Imperial Commissioners, and to make known their grievances to them.

You will state to them that Her Majesty's Government will use their influence with the Sublime Porte in recommending that the legitimate grievances which may be established shall be remedied or removed, but you will be careful to avoid pledging Her Majesty's Government in regard to any measures to be taken, which must be the result of a direct understanding between the parties.

It may be impossible for you to prevent the Christians from making known to you the nature and extent of their grievances, but, without refusing to listen to what may be necessary to enable you to report to Her Majesty's Embassy, in order that the insurgents may not delude themselves into supposing that the Powers guarantee the realization of the wishes which they may submit to the Imperial Commissioner, you will avoid provoking any discussion of their grievances.

The first object being to prevent bloodshed, you will urge the insurgents to avoid attacking the Imperial troops during the progress of the negotiations, but to disperse and return to their villages, and when you have fulfilled the duty thus confided to you, you will return to Mostar or Serajevo, or such other point in your district as you think most desirable, without waiting to know the result of the negotiations which you and your colleagues may have been the means of opening between the Turkish Commissioner and the insurgents.

Orders will be sent to the Ottoman authorities to offer you every facility in carrying out your instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Holmes.

Sir, *Therapia, August 25, 1875.*

THE instructions which I have conveyed to you in another despatch will be found in substance similar to those which are being sent to the Agents of the other Powers, and I hope you will be able to act cordially with them.

The object of the step that has been resolved upon is, by a simultaneous declaration from all the Powers that no support is to be expected from them, to make the insurgents understand the hopelessness of engaging in a contest with the Imperial troops.

It has been consented to by the Porte, not from any doubt of its ability to quell the movement, but from a reluctance to adopt energetic measures of repression, leading to the sacrifice of the lives of the Sultan's subjects, as long as there was any prospect of arriving at a peaceful solution.

It will be your care and tact to prevent the present action of yourself and colleagues from being regarded as an intervention in the internal affairs of the Empire, but an impression has prevailed among the Christians that they enjoy foreign sympathy in the present movement, and that, if sustained, it will receive material support.

The task which you and your colleagues have before you is to put an end to this delusion, and to convince the insurgents that the Powers are unanimous in withholding all countenance from them.

The Governments possessing most influence with the Princes of Servia and of Montenegro are exerting it to the utmost to induce them to restrain their subjects, and their Highnesses appear to be doing their best to follow the advice, although, no doubt, natives of the Principalities will swell the ranks of the insurgents, in defiance of the efforts of their Governments.

It is expected that the Imperial Commissioner will leave Constantinople to-morrow, and after his arrival, when your colleagues have had the time to reach the neighbourhood of the insurrection, you will be enabled to enter upon your duties.

The Austro-Hungarian, the French and Russian Consuls at Scutari, the German Consul from Ragusa, and the Italian Commissioner from the Danube, will be your colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 21.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 5.)

My Lord, *Mostar, August* 22, 1875.

A FEW days ago I telegraphed to your Lordship that the Governor-General of Bosnia had been ordered to proceed to Mostar, and that therefore I should also go there.

I have now the honour to inform your Lordship that I arrived here on the 20th.

I would beg your Lordship to inform me whether I am to draw for my expenses on the Foreign Office or on the Embassy at Constantinople, as when I was sent here in 1861.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 22.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 12.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres,

My Lord, *le* 11 *September*, 1875.

J'AI l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence, pour son information, la copie ci-incluse d'une dépêche que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Safvet Pasha, relativement à la mission de son Excellence Server Pasha comme Commissaire Impérial en Herzégovine, ainsi que la copie y annexée des instructions concernant cette mission.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, September* 11, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to communicate, for your Excellency's information, the inclosed copy of a despatch, which I have just received from his Excellency Safvet Pasha, with respect to the mission of his Excellency Server Pasha as Imperial Commissioner in the Herzegovina, as well as the inclosed copy of the instructions relating to that mission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le* 2 *Septembre*, 1875.

PAR ma dépêche télégraphique du 22 Août, je vous ai communiqué la proposition que les Grandes Puissances ont faite à la Sublime Porte relativement aux affaires de l'Herzégovine.

Dans sa sollicitude paternelle, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a usé de la plus grande modération vis-à-vis des insurgés; il ne leur a épargné aucun conseil pour les ramener dans la vie de l'obéissance. Notre Auguste Maître a daigné envoyer à Mostar son Excellence Server Pacha, Président du Conseil d'Etat, en qualité de Commissaire Impérial. Il lui a donné le mandat de s'enquérir des griefs formulés par les rebelles, de les redresser, s'il y a lieu, et de faire disparaître promptement les abus qui pourraient exister dans l'administration locale. Je vous envoie, ci-joint, pour votre information, les instructions données à son Excellence Server Pacha; elles contiennent plus d'une preuve de la bienveillance de Sa Majesté le Sultan pour ces populations égarées, et nous aimons à espérer que la voix du Commissaire Impérial sera dûment écoutée. Pour ce qui est de la démarche à faire par les Consuls des Grandes Puissances, nous les envisageons comme pouvant contribuer à pacifier la révolte. Dans le cas contraire, nous aurons écarté toute responsabilité, et personne ne pourra nous reprocher d'avoir repoussé un moyen qui pouvait tout terminer sans effusion de sang. Je dois ajouter qu'en même temps toutes les dispositions ont été prises, et des troupes en nombre suffisant concentrées sur les lieux, pour pouvoir, au besoin, accomplir la tâche qui leur incombe.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *September* 2, 1875.

I COMMUNICATED to you in my telegraphic despatch of the 22nd of August, the proposal that the Great Powers had made to the Sublime Porte with respect to the affairs of the Herzegovina.

The Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has with paternal solicitude exercised the greatest moderation towards the insurgents; it has spared no advice to bring them back to obedience. Our august Master has deigned to send to Mostar his Excellency Server Pasha, President of the Council of State, in the capacity of Imperial Commissioner. He ordered him to inquire into the complaints put forward by the rebels, and to redress them, if it be possible, and to abolish promptly the abuses which may exist in the local administration. I send you herewith, for your information, the instructions given to his Excellency Server Pasha; they contain more than one proof of the kind intentions of the Majesty the Sultan towards these misled people, and we are pleased to hope that the advice of the Imperial Commissioner will be duly listened to. With regard to the mission of the Consuls of the Great Powers, we consider that they are likely to contribute to the pacification of the revolt. If this be not the result, we shall have relieved ourselves of all responsibility, and no one can reproach us with having rejected a means of solution which might have closed the whole incident without bloodshed. I should at the same time add that every disposition has been made, and troops in sufficient number are concentrated on the spot, so as to be able, if necessary, to accomplish the task forced upon them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Instructions addressed to Server Pasha, Imperial Commissioner in Herzegovina.

L'INSURRECTION qui a éclaté du côté de l'Herzégovine vous étant connue, il est superflu d'entrer dans des détails à ce sujet. Les pièces relatives aux plaintes et aux réclamations des habitants à propos de certains actes d'illégalité et d'injustice qui auraient eu lieu en Herzégovine vous ayant été remises, il est également inutile d'en parler ici.

Vous n'ignorez point que les lois et règlements de l'Empire, dont les dispositions reposent sur la base de la justice et de l'équité, s'appliquent à tous les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan indistinctement, et qu'ils ne peuvent subir aucune modification exclusivement en faveur d'une seule localité. Par conséquent, si la mise à exécution laisse à désirer, ou s'il existe un abus quelconque, le Gouvernement Impérial, dans sa sollicitude paternelle pour ses populations, a le devoir sacré d'y remédier.

La base fondamentale de votre mission, c'est donc de redresser immédiatement les abus, s'il en existe, de rassurer les esprits, et de rétablir la tranquillité.

Comme les actes d'arbitraire et de vexations signalés dans les pièces susmentionnées sont contraires à la volonté de notre très-gracieux Souverain, Sa Majesté vous autorise à proclamer que désormais ils ne se renouvelleront plus; à donner à cet effet les assurances les plus formelles, à destituer, à punir et à corriger, après enquête, ceux des employés ou des habitants qui auraient commis des actes contraires aux lois et règlements de l'Empire; à instituer un Tribunal Extraordinaire pour rendre justice aux personnes qui auraient été victimes de pareils actes de vexations; à exécuter les sentences rendus à la suite de l'examen équitable de ces plaintes et réclamations; à transporter dans d'autres localités les personnes dont l'influence a pu réellement troubler l'ordre public et la sécurité des habitants; à faire mettre en liberté ceux des habitants qui, d'après les plaintes formulées, auraient été envoyées en exil, illégalement, et sans être convaincus d'un crime. En un mot, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan vous autorise à exécuter tout ce qui sera jugé nécessaire, dans les limites des lois et règlements de l'Empire.

Dès votre arrivée à Mostar, vous porterez à la connaissance de tout le monde l'objet de votre mission. Vous devez faire bien comprendre que le vœu de notre Auguste Maître, c'est de ne laisser molester aucunement ses sujets fidèles, mais bien d'accroître progressivement leur repos et leur prosperité. Néanmoins, si, malgré tout cela, les habitants qui, sans attendre les résultats de leurs réclamations, ont pris les armes, et ont osé commettre des actes illégaux en opposition avec leurs devoirs de sujets; si, tout en méritant d'être punis, ils ne savent pas apprécier les bienfaits de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et s'en

montrer reconnaissants ; si, disons-nous, ils continuent à persévérer dans la voie de la révolte, il ne restera plus qu'à employer, à regret, la force contre de pareils recalcitrants.

Vous leur ferez comprendre également ce dernier point. Vous agirez en conséquence, le cas échéant, et en informerez la Sublime Porte.

(Translation.)

AS you are cognizant of the insurrection which has broken out in the Herzegovina it is superfluous to enter into details on this subject. The documents relating to the complaints and demands of the inhabitants with respect to certain illegal and unjust acts, alleged to have been committed in the Herzegovina, having been transmitted to you, it is equally unnecessary to speak of them here.

You are aware that the laws and regulations of the Empire, the dispositions of which are based on justice and equity, apply to all the subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan without distinction, and that they cannot undergo any exclusive modification in favour of any one locality. Consequently, if their mode of execution be faulty, or if any abuse whatsoever exist, the Imperial Government in its paternal solicitude for its subjects is religiously bound to remedy it.

The fundamental base of your mission is then to redress abuses immediately, if they exist, to reassure the minds of the population, and to re-establish tranquillity.

Since the arbitrary and vexatious acts described in the said documents are contrary to the wish of our Most Gracious Sovereign, His Majesty authorises you to declare that from this time forth they will not be repeated ; to give, for this purpose, the most formal assurances ; to dismiss, to punish, and to correct, after inquiry, those of the employés or of the inhabitants who may have committed acts contrary to the laws and regulations of the Empire ; to institute an Extraordinary Tribunal to do justice to persons who may have been victims to such acts of oppression ; to execute sentences passed in consequence of the equitable examination of these complaints and demands ; to exile to other places persons whose influence may, in reality, have troubled public order and the security of the inhabitants ; to set at liberty those inhabitants who, according to the complaints formulated, may have been sent into exile illegally, and without having been convicted of crime. In one word, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, authorises you to carry out everything that may be considered necessary, within the laws and regulations of the Empire.

As soon as you arrive at Mostar, you will make everybody acquainted with the object of your mission. You should make it well understood that the wish of our august Master is that none of his faithful subjects should be allowed to be molested, but, on the contrary, progressively to increase their repose and tranquillity. Nevertheless, if, notwithstanding all this, the inhabitants, who, without awaiting the result of their demands, have taken up arms, and have dared to commit illegal acts in opposition to their duty as subjects ; if, whilst they deserve to be punished, they do not know how to appreciate the favours of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, nor show themselves grateful for them ; if, in fact, they continue to persevere in the revolt, your only alternative will be to employ force against such offenders, however much this is to be regretted.

You will likewise enlighten them on this last point. You will act in obedience to the above, should the case present itself, and will duly inform the Supreme Porte of such action.

No. 23.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 13.)

(Extract.) *Mostar, August* 26, 1875.

I HAVE to-day telegraphed to Sir Henry Elliot that the old insurgent districts have now all joined the revolt. They have burnt all the blockhouses along the Montenegrin frontier. Selem Pasha, with three battalions, has reached Gasko without fighting. Troops and provisions are fast arriving at Klek. Governor-General has gone to Stolatz to direct the advance of troops.

No. 24.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 4, 1875.

THE Firman, of which the translation is inclosed, has been addressed to the Governors-General of all the provinces, ordering them to carry out the provision of the late Hatt by a close attention to the administration of justice, and holding them responsible for any negligence.

I have likewise the honour to inclose the translation of a letter by which the First Secretary of the Sultan conveys to the Grand Vizier His Majesty's orders that instructions shall be sent to the provinces to put an end to the exactions in the collection of the revenue, it being, his Majesty states, unfortunately true that "the causes which have led to disturbances among peaceable populations are due in a great degree to the improper conduct of some incapable functionaries, and to the exactions of revenue 'farmers greedy of gain.'"

These exactions must, his Majesty says, be put a stop to under penalty of the heaviest punishment which the law permits for them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Newspaper Extracts.

Firman Impérial expédié à tous les Gouverneurs-Généraux des Vilayets.

(Traduction.)

IL est hors de doute que la prospérité du pays et le bien-être de ses populations ont pour base générale la garantie des biens, de la vie et de l'honneur de chacun. Cette garantie ne peut résulter que de l'administration d'une bonne et impartiale justice, tel a été le sens de notre Hatt Impérial adressé en dernier lieu à notre illustre Grand Vézir ainsi conçu :—

"La bonne gestion des affaires de notre Empire, la prospérité du pays ainsi que le bien-être de la population, étant l'objet de toute notre sollicitude, notre ferme volonté est qu'une protection efficace et que justice absolue soient assurées à toutes les classes de la société indistinctement, de façon que l'honneur et le droit de chacun soient sauvegardés.

"Comme le Ministère de la Justice constitue l'un des Départements les plus importants, il est indispensable que ce Département agisse en conformité de nos intentions bienveillantes.

"Nous ordonnons donc que ces intentions soient promulguées et qu'elles reçoivent leur pleine exécution."

Nos ordres et nos nouvelles instructions ne sont édictés aujourd'hui que pour confirmer, en les développant, nos dites intentions souveraines, dont la réalisation dépend des efforts sincères et réels que tous les fonctionnaires appartenant tant à la magistrature qu'à l'ordre administratif auront à déployer dans leur exécution, comme aussi de leur application à opérer une transformation salutaire dans les idées.

Tous les fonctionnaires publics, et surtout ceux qui sont investis des fonctions judiciaires dans les Tribunaux du Chér'i et les Tribunaux Civils, soit dans la capitale, soit dans la province, doivent porter toute leur attention à ce que les procès soient jugés avec impartialité et conformément aux dispositions de la Loi du Chér'i, et des autres lois en général, afin que tous nos sujets jouissent indistinctement de la plus grande somme de justice et de sécurité. C'est là notre ferme volonté Impériale.

Ce qui précède étant porté à la connaissance de chacun de mes Gouverneurs-Généraux, notre présent ordre souverain a été émané de notre Divan Impérial, et en même temps que cet ordre vous est adressé également en votre qualité de Gouverneur-Général, vous recevrez un aperçu des actes qui ont été commis au su de tout le monde contrairement aux lois de mon Empire.

A l'arrivée de notre présent firman Impérial, vous vous empresserez à porter textuellement ces dispositions à la connaissance de la magistrature aussi bien que des fonctionnaires administratifs et à tous nos sujets tant dans le chef-lieu du vilayet que dans les arrondissements qui en dépendent, et vous veillerez à l'exécution ponctuelle de nos

ordres. Il est bien entendu que les fonctionnaires seront traités suivant leur bonne ou mauvaise conduite.

La Sublime Porte procédera aux mesures pour s'enquérir régulièrement de la marche des affaires publiques. Sachant que la moindre infraction ou négligence à nos ordres impérieux attirera sur vous une grave responsabilité, vous devez conformer votre conduite en conséquence. Vous aurez soin de signaler sans exception à notre Sublime Porte tous fonctionnaires contrevenant à nos présents ordres souverains.

Donné le 1 Chaban, 1292 (1 Septembre, 1875).

Lettre du Premier Secretaire de Sa Majesté le Sultan à Son Altesse le Grand-Vézir.

(Traduction.)

Votre Altesse sait combien Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre très-gracieux Souverain, porte un sollicitude constante à l'accomplissement de tout ce qui constitue la garantie des droits, de l'honneur et de la vie de ses sujets, ainsi que la prospérité en général du pays.

Sa Majesté a proclamé tout récemment encore ses intentions paternelles et magnanimes dans son dernier Hatt Impérial.

Bien qu'on ait tout lieu d'espérer que grâce aux mesures à prendre, le but proposé sera complétement atteint, il n'en est pas moins vrai que les causes qui amènent le trouble parmi les populations paisibles sont dues en grande partie à la conduite inconvenante de quelques fonctionnaires incapables, et surtout aux exactions auxquelles se livrent les fermiers avides dans l'espoir d'un plus grand profit.

Il importe sans doute que le recouvrement des revenus de l'Etat s'effectue régulièrement, mais il n'en est pas moins essentiel de faire attention à ce que ce devoir de l'administration ne dégénère en abus de nature à donner lieu à des troubles qui entraînent des dommages plus considérables que ces revenus ne lui procureraient d'avantages.

En conséquence, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Maître, ordonne que les Gouverneurs-Généraux des vilayets, les Prefets des départements, ainsi que toutes les autres autorités compétentes, reçoivent des instructions formelles pour s'abstenir d'une manière absolue des procédés dont il est question comme aussi pour éviter l'application des peines plus fortes que la loi ne prescrit, et des détentions illégales.

Les contrevenants à ces ordres souverains seront sévèrement punis.

(Translation.)

Imperial Firman sent to all the Governors-General of Vilayets.

IT is not to be doubted that the prosperity of the country and the well-being of the population have for a general basis the security of individual property, life, and honour. This security can only result from the administration of good and impartial justice. Such was the sense of our Imperial Hatt, lately addressed to our illustrious Grand Vizier in the following terms:—

"The good conduct of the affairs of our Empire, the prosperity of the country, as well as the well-being of the population, being the object of all our solicitude, our firm intention is that efficacious protection and absolute justice be assured to all classes of society without exception, so that the honour and rights of everybody may be secured.

"Since the Department of Justice constitutes one of the most important departments, it is indispensable that this Department should act in conformity with our benevolent intentions.

"We order, therefore, that these intentions be promulgated, and that they be fully executed."

Our orders and our new instructions are published to-day, only to confirm, by developing them, our said sovereign intentions, the realisation of which depends on the sincere and real efforts which all the functionaries, belonging either to the magistracy or to the Administrative Department, will have to make in executing them, as well as in applying them, in order to effect a salutary change in public opinion.

All public officials, and especially those who are invested with judicial functions in the Tribunals of Chéri and the Civil Tribunals, whether in the capital or in the provinces, are to take especial care that the law-suits be adjudged with impartiality, and agreeably to the dispositions of the law of Chéri and of the other laws in general, so that all our

subjects, without distinction, may enjoy the fullest measure of justice and security. This is our firm Imperial will.

The preceding having been brought to the knowledge of each of my Governors-General, our present sovereign order has been sent out from our Imperial Divan, and at the same time that this order is addressed to you in your quality of Governor-General you will receive a summary of the acts which have been committed to the knowledge of all the world, contrary to the laws of my Empire.

On the arrival of this Imperial Firman you will hasten to bring the text of these dispositions to the notice of the magistracy, as well as of the administrative officials, and to all our subjects, whether in the chief town of the vilayet, or in the sub-districts under the same jurisdiction, and you will be careful to see that our orders are punctually executed. It must be well understood that the officials will be treated in accordance with their good or bad conduct.

The Sublime Porte will take measures to inform itself regularly of the course of public affairs. With the knowledge that the least infraction or neglect of our Imperial orders will incur upon you a grave responsibility, you must mould your conduct accordingly. You will take care to acquaint our Sublime Porte with any disobedience of these our sovereign orders on the part of any functionary, whosoever he may be.

Letter of the First Secretary of His Majesty the Sultan to his Highness the Grand Vizier.

Your Lordship is aware that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, our Most Gracious Sovereign, has ever at heart the accomplishment of what will ensure security for the rights, the honour, and the life of his subjects, as well as the general prosperity of the country.

His Imperial Majesty has again quite recently proclaimed in his last Imperial Hatt his paternal and magnanimous intentions.

Although there is every reason to hope that, thanks to the measures to be taken, the proposed object will be completely achieved, it is not the less true that the causes which produce trouble among the peaceable populations are in a great measure due to the unseemly conduct of some incapable functionaries, and particularly to the exactions to which the avaricious farmers of taxes lend themselves in the hope of a larger profit.

It is doubtless of importance that the levying of the revenues of State should be regularly performed, but it is no less essential to take care that this duty of the Administration does not degenerate into abuses of such character as to give rise to troubles which entail more injury than the revenues do advantages.

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan our august Master, therefore, orders that the Governors-General of Vilayets, the Prefects of Departments, as well as all the other competent authorities, receive formal instructions to abstain entirely from the acts in question, as also to avoid the sentencing of persons to heavier punishments than the law prescribes, or to illegal imprisonments.

Those disobeying these sovereign orders will be severely punished.

No. 25.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September 15, 1875.*

I APPROVE the instructions which you addressed to Mr. Holmes, instructing him to proceed to Mostar, with a view, if possible, to induce the insurgents in Herzegovina to suspend hostilities and lay their complaints before a Turkish Commission, copies of which are inclosed in your despatch of the 26th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 26.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 19.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 13, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying French text of the speech delivered by the Prince of Servia to the National Skoupstchina at Kragonievatz, on the solemn opening of that Assembly on the 10th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Speech of Prince Milan Obrenovitch IV, on the opening of the Session of the National Assembly, 1875.

Messieurs les Députés,

J'AI toujours aimé à me trouver au milieu des Représentants de mon peuple, mais aujourd'hui plus que jamais j'ai lieu d'être satisfait de me voir entouré de vous. Depuis longtemps une Assemblée Nationale n'a été convoquée dans d'aussi graves circonstances et, si jusqu'à présent j'ai eu besoin de votre concours patriotique pour l'accomplissement de ma tâche difficile, c'est aujourd'hui surtout que je sens la nécessité de cet appui.

Messieurs les Députés,

Nos populations frontières viennent d'être inquiétées dans leur tranquillité domestique. Une partie même a dû quitter ses champs et prendre les armes pour veiller à la sécurité du pays sur nos frontières du sud et de l'est.

Vous n'ignorez pas que les événements qui se sont passés dans les provinces voisines de la Principauté, en Bosnie et en Herzégovine, ont créé la situation difficile dans laquelle la Serbe se trouve aujourd'hui. Les populations de ces provinces, désespérant de voir la fin de leurs souffrances, se sont soulevées, les armes à la main, pour se défendre des abus qu'elles endurent en dépit des intentions humaines et généreuses de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

En prenant des mesures tendant à la pacification de ces provinces, le Gouvernement Impérial déploit en même temps à nos frontières de grandes forces militaires. Ces concentrations de troupes autour de la Serbie augmentent encore la gravité d'une situation déjà difficile en soi. Tandis que nos populations voient une menace dans ces concentrations et réclament du Gouvernement des mesures de défense, les réfugiés, tant Chrétiens que Mahométans, fuyant le glaive et le feu, viennent chercher un asile sur notre territoire et apportent à notre pays et à ses autorités de nouvelles inquiétudes et lui imposent d'immenses sacrifices.

Cet état de choses, s'il se prolongeait, finirait par devenir intenable. Mais, comme la Sublime Porte, d'accord avec les Puissances Garantes, a entrepris l'œuvre de pacification, nous pouvons espérer que Sa Majesté Impérial le Sultan et les Hautes Puissances Garantes trouveront, dans leur sagesse, une solution heureuse qui ramenera définitivement la tranquillité dans ces contrées dont le sort ne peut nous être indifférent.

En effet la Serbie, en tant que voisine immédiate de ces provinces, souffre au double point de vue moral et économique, des insurrections périodiques de leurs habitants; elle n'est par conséquent pas moins intéressée à ce qu'il soit mis fin une fois pour toutes à cet état de choses. C'est pourquoi je ferai tous mes efforts pour contribuer dans la mesure de nos faibles moyens à ce que le résultat atteint rende à ces contrées bouleversées un contentement durable.

Messieurs les Députés,

Bien que nommés depuis peu de jours les Ministres que j'ai réunis autour de moi dans ces graves circonstances vous soumettront néanmoins quelques projets de lois tendant à l'amélioration de nos institutions nationales, savoir: une loi destinée à augmenter les garanties de sureté personnelle, une loi sur l'extension de la liberté de la presse, et une loi sur l'extension de l'autonomie communale. En abordant le plus tôt possible ces importantes matières, le Gouvernement ne fait que venir au devant d'un désir exprimé dans les Assemblées précédentes, et je ne doute pas qu'une solution satisfaisante ne soit le résultat de vos délibérations.

Je suis heureux enfin de pouvoir vous faire part d'un événement qui concilie me:

sentiments intimes avec mes devoirs de souverain. Descendant de cette race à laquelle le peuple Serbe a toujours témoigné son dévouement, j'ai cru dans la réalisation d'un vœu personnel satisfaire en même temps à ceux de mon peuple en choisissant pour compagne de ma vie et de mon trône Nathalie Pétrovna, appartenant par sa naissance à la nation Russe, à laquelle nous rattachent les liens de la religion et du sang ainsi que les nombreux et précieux souvenirs du passé.

L'Assemblée Nationale est ouverte. Que la sagesse préside à vos travaux pour pouvoir dignement répondre à votre tâche difficile. Que la concorde règne entre vous, cette concorde qui, dans les circonstances difficiles, n'a jamais fait défaut soit au sein de l'Assemblée elle-même soit entre elle et mon Gouvernement, c'est là le point de départ le fondement le plus solide de notre force et de notre avenir.

Kragonievatz, le 29 *Août,* 1875.

(Translation.)

Gentlemen,

I HAVE always been pleased to find myself in the midst of the Representatives ot my people, but I have to-day more than ever reason for being satisfied at seeing myself surrounded by you. For a long time no National Assembly has been convoked under circumstances so grave, and if hitherto I have found the need of your patriotic aid to accomplish my difficult task, to-day, more than ever, I feel the necessity of this support.

Gentlemen,

Our frontier populations have lately been disturbed in their domestic calm. Some, indeed, have been forced to leave their fields and take up arms to guard the security of the country on our southern and eastern frontiers.

You are aware that the events which have taken place in the neighbouring provinces of the Principality, in Bosnia and the Herzegovine, have created the difficult situation in which Servia finds herself to-day. The population of these provinces, despairing of seeing the end of their sufferings, have risen, arms in hand, to defend themselves from the abuses under which they suffer, notwithstanding the humane and generous intentions of His Majesty the Sultan.

In taking measures with a view to the pacification of these provinces, the Imperial Government is deploying at the same time a large military force on our frontiers. These concentrations of troops round Servia augment still more the gravity of a situation already difficult in itself. Whilst our people see a menace in these concentrations, and demand from the Government means of defence, the refugees, Christians as well as Mahommedans, fleeing from fire and sword, are seeking an asylum within our territory, thus bringing to our country and its authorities new anxieties, and imposing on it immense sacrifices.

This state of things if prolonged would end by becoming intolerable. But since the Sublime Porte, in agreement with the Guaranteeing Powers, has undertaken the work of pacification, we may hope that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan and the High Guaranteeing Powers will, in their wisdom, find a happy solution, which will definitively bring back tranquillity into those countries, whose lot cannot be indifferent to us.

In fact, Servia, in so far as it is the immediate neighbour of these provinces, suffers from a double point of view, both moral and economical, from the periodical insurrections of their inhabitants; she is, consequently, not the less interested that this state of things should be put an end to once for all. I shall, therefore, use every effort to contribute, so far as our feeble means allow, so that the result arrived at may give back durable tranquillity to these unsettled countries.

Gentlemen,

Although nominated but a few days ago, the Ministers, whom I have assembled around me in these grave circumstances, will submit to you nevertheless some projects of laws tending to improve our national institutions, to wit—a law destined to increase the securities for personal safety, a law for the extension of the liberty of the press, and a law for the extension of communal self-government. In addressing itself as soon as possible to these important matters, the Government only anticipates a desire expressed in preceding Assemblies, and I doubt not but that a satisfactory solution will be the result of your deliberations.

I am happy, lastly, to be able to acquaint you with an event which brings my private

feelings into harmony with my duties as a Sovereign. A descendant of that race to which the Servian nation has always shown itself devoted, I have been led to think that, while realizing a personal wish, I might hope also to satisfy the wishes of my people by choosing, as companion of my life and throne, Nathalie Patrovna, belonging by birth to the Russian nation, to which ties of religion and race, as well as numerous and precious memories in the past, attach us.

The National Assembly is open. May wisdom preside over your labours, so that you may worthily accomplish your difficult task. May concord reign amongst you—that concord which, under difficult circumstances, has never failed either in the Assembly or between it and my Government. This must be the starting point, the most solid foundation of our strength and of our future.

Kragonievatz, August 29, 1875.

No. 27.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 2.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September* 23, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a deputation came to Belgrade from the Servian Assembly at Kragonievatz and presented to the Prince yesterday an Address voted by that Assembly in reply to His Highness' opening speech.

The most important passage of that Address is the following:—

"Verily the present condition of Servia is a most complicated one, as your Highness has said, our people are disturbed in their domestic quietness. The large forces collected by the Ottoman Porte on our frontiers, and the hostile attitude assumed by these towards Servia, has compelled a portion of our countrymen on our eastern and western frontier to leave their fields and their homes for the purpose of watching over the security of our country.

"The Servian nation, which has redeemed this dear country with its swords and blood, is mindful of the words spoken by your Highness in a Proclamation in 1872, 'that it would be a sin to lose the smallest portion of this heritage of our fathers, and it is little enough to our credit that we add nothing to it.'

"These words are engraved on our hearts. The times are serious no doubt, but no less serious, Sire, is the will of the Servian people to rise to the height of the occasion.

"Wherefore, the Skoupstchina declares hereby solemnly, on behalf of the Servian people, their readiness as a nation to defend their fatherland and its liberties, and to preserve inviolate the inheritance of the great Milosch and of our fathers; there is no sacrifice which Servia is not ready to make on the altar of the country. At the voice of your Highness the entire nation is ready, as one man, to present itself to defend our native soil.

"Sire, the secular sufferings of our brethren in Bosnia and in the Herzegovina have compelled them to rise in arms and fight for their natural and their national rights.

"The effusion of their blood offends our fraternal feelings. Their cry of despair finds a noble echo in other parts of the civilized world. We cannot, we ought not to remain insensible to their fate.

"The Skoupstchina is penetrated with the deepest gratitude at seeing that your Highness' conviction is that these disturbances must be tranquillized by obtaining permanent satisfaction for our oppressed brethren.

"In this patriotic direction you may rely on the support of the Servian people, who are prepared to place at your Highness' disposal all the means required to accomplish this great task."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a copy of the French version of the above Servian Address, which I have the honour to inclose.

W. A. W.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Address from the National Assembly in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

L'ASSEMBLEE Nationale voyant dans son sein son Souverain bien-aimé préoccupé sans relâche de l'avancement de notre chère patrie, faire appel à l'appui patriotique de l'Assemblée dans ces circonstances graves et difficiles, la représentation nationale s'empresse d'y répondre avec ce patriotisme et ce dévouement que votre Altesse est en droit d'attendre de l'Assemblée Nationale, et que le peuple Serbe a toujours témoigné envers la glorieuse maison des Obrénovitch.

Altesse, la situation où la Serbie se trouve aujourd'hui est réellement difficile. Comme l'a dit votre Altesse, nos populations frontières sont en proie à l'inquiétude. La concentration de grandes forces militaires à nos frontières de la part de la Sublime Porte, qui prend ainsi une attitude menaçant vis-à-vis de la Serbie, a arraché à leurs champs et à leurs foyers une partie de nos frères et les contraint de veiller en armes à la sécurité de notre pays sur ses frontières du sud et de l'est.

Le peuple Serbe, qui a racheté la terre qu'il habite avec le glaive et au prix de son sang, a présentes à la mémoire les paroles de votre Altesse contenues dans sa Proclamation de 1872, que "ce serait une grave responsabilité de perdre la moindre des acquisitions de nos pères et peu méritoire de n'y rien ajouter." Ces paroles sont restées profondément gravées dans le cœur de tous les Serbes. Il est bon de s'en souvenir dans le moment présent. Les circonstances sont sérieuses, mais non moins sérieuse est la ferme volonté du peuple Serbe d'être à la hauteur de la situation qui lui est faite. Aussi l'Assemblée Nationale déclare solennellement, au nom du peuple Serbe, qu'il est prêt à protéger son pays, à défendre sa liberté, et à garder l'héritage du Grand Milosch et de nos pères. Il n'est pas de sacrifice que la Serbie ne soit prête à faire dans ce but sur l'autel sacré de la patrie. A la voix de votre Altesse le peuple Serbe se lèvera comme un seul homme pour défendre sa patrie bien-aimée.

Altesse, des siècles de souffrances ont déterminé nos frères de Bosnie et d'Herzégovine à faire appel aux armes et à combattre pour leurs droits d'hommes et de nation.

La vue de leur sang révolte nos sentiments fraternels. Leurs cris de désespoir trouvent un noble écho chez les autres nations civilisées. Il nous est impossible de rester indifférents à leurs destinées.

L'Assemblée Nationale est pénétrée des plus profonds sentiments de reconnaissance pour les efforts que fait votre Altesse pour contribuer à ramener définitivement la tranquillité dans les contrées bouleversées et assurer un contentement durable à nos frères cruellement éprouvés.

Dans cette voie patriotique votre Altesse peut aussi compter entièrement sur l'appui du peuple Serbe. Il est prêt à mettre à la disposition de votre Altesse tous les moyens nécessaires pour l'heureuse réalisation de cette grande œuvre. L'Assemblée Nationale, au nom du peuple Serbe, donne à Votre Altesse l'assurance que, dans ce but aussi, elle ne reculera devant aucun sacrifice, convaincue que votre Altesse trouvera avec son Gouvernement le moyen le plus propre pour que la Serbie réponde à son devoir.

L'Assemblée Nationale prendra en délibération les projects de lois longtemps attendus mentionnés dans le Discours du Trône. Elles les discutera avec toute l'attention que réclame leur importance et s'empressera de statuer sur eux dans la présente session.

L'Assemblée, de son côté, fera aussi quelques propositions qu'elle considère comme urgentes pour le développement de nos institutions nationales. Ces propositions ont pour but de modifier et de compléter certaines dispositions de la Constitution tant dans le sens d'une extension de la responsabilité Ministérielle que pour approprier davantage notre législation à l'esprit de notre vie nationale et à ses besoins, ainsi que pour arriver à une simplification de notre procédure judiciaire et administrative.

C'est avec le sentiment de la joie la plus vive que le peuple Serbe a appris que votre Altesse a fait choix d'une compagne, et nous a donné une Princesse dans la personne de Nathalie Pétrovna, issue de la nation Russe notre congénère. Nathalie Pétrovna sera l'ornement du trône et assurera en même temps la dynastie des Obrénovitch à laquelle le peuple est si profondément attaché.

L'Assemblée, en offrant à votre Altesse ses plus vives félicitations, ne peut que joindre sa voix à celle de tout le peuple pour implorer la bénédiction divine sur l'heureuse union de votre Altesse et de notre future Princesse Nathalie.

En tout temps, Altesse, le peuple Serbe a éprouvé le besoin de la concorde, mais ce besoin ce fait surtout sentir dans les circonstances actuelles. L'Assemblée partage la conviction de votre Altesse que là est le point de départ, la base la plus solide de notre force et de notre avenir.

L'Assemblée Nationale prie enfin Dieu de répandre ses bénédictions sur Votre Altesse et sur notre chère patrie, qu'il donne la force nécessaire au bras du Serbe pour porter haut l'étendard de la liberté, et, conduit par le glorieux Obrénovitch, le peuple Serbe s'écriera de toutes parts :

Vive le Prince Milan M. Obrénovitch IV !

Vive la nation Serbe !

Kragouiévatz, le 7 Septembre, 1875.

(Translation.)

THE National Assembly seeing in its midst its beloved Sovereign constantly occupied with the advancement of our dear country, and appealing to the patriotic support of the Assembly under the present serious and difficult circumstances, the national representatives hasten to respond with that patriotism and devotion which your Highness has a right to expect from the National Assembly, and which has always been displayed by the Servian people towards the glorious house of the Obrénovitch.

Highness, the position in which Servia finds herself at the present time is in truth a difficult one. As your Highness has said, our frontier populations are a prey to anxiety. The concentration of a great military force on our frontier by the Sublime Porte, which thus assumes a menacing attitude towards Servia, has torn part of our brethren from their fields and from their homes, and has compelled them to guard in arms over the safety of our country on its southern and eastern frontiers.

The people of Servia, who have redeemed the land they dwell in with the sword and with their blood, have before their recollection the words contained in the Proclamation of your Highness of 1872, that " it would be a grave responsibility to lose even the least of the acquisitions of our fathers, and little to our credit to add nothing to them." These words have remained deeply engraven in the heart of all Servians. It is well to bear them in mind at the present moment. The circumstances are serious, but not less serious is the firm will of the Servian people to rise equal to the difficulties of their position. Accordingly, the National Assembly delares solemnly, in the name of the people of Servia, that it is ready to protect its country, to defend its liberty, and to defend the inheritance of the great Milosch and of our ancestors. There is no sacrifice that Servia is not prepared to make on the sacred altar of the country in order to attain this end. At the call of your Highness the people of Servia will rise like one man to defend their beloved country.

Highness, centuries of suffering have determined our brethren of Bosnia and of the Herzegovina to appeal to arms and to fight for their rights as men and as a nation.

The sight of their blood revolts our brotherly sentiments. Their cries of despair find a noble echo among other civilized nations. It is impossible that we should remain indifferent to their fate.

The National Assembly is filled with the deepest sense of gratitude for the efforts of your Highness to help to restore definitively tranquillity to these distracted countries, and to insure a lasting contentment to our cruelly tried brethren.

In this patriotic path your Highness may also count entirely on the support of the people of Servia. They are ready to put at your Highness' disposal all the means needful for the happy realization of this great work. The National Assembly, in name of the people of Servia, give your Highness the assurance that, to this end also, it will not flinch from any sacrifice, being convinced that your Highness, together with the Government, will devise the means by which Servia may best respond to her duty.

The National Assembly will deliberate on the long-expected projects of laws, mentioned in the Speech from the Throne. It will discuss them with all the attention due to their importance, and will make a point of legislating upon them during the present Session.

The Assembly, on its side, will also make some propcsitions, which it considers urgent, for the development of our national institutions. These propositions will have in view the modification and the completion of certain dispositions of the Constitution, both in the sense of extending Ministerial responsibility, and of adapting our legislation still more closely to the spirit of our national life and to its wants, as well as of arriving at a mode of simplifying our judicial and administrative system.

The people of Servia have learnt with feelings of the greatest pleasure that your Highness has made choice of a consort, and has presented us with a Princess in the person of Nathalie Pétrovna, of Russian origin, and consequently our kinswoman. Nathalie Pétrovna will adorn the Throne, and at the same time ensure the dynasty of the Obrénovitch, to which the people are so deeply attached.

The Assembly, while offering its heartiest congratulations to your Highness, can but

join its voice to that of the whole people in imploring the divine benediction upon the happy union of your Highness and of our future Princess Nathalie.

The Servian people, Highness, have ever felt the necessity of concord, but this want makes itself more especially felt under existing circumstances. The Assembly shares the conviction of your Highness that that is the starting point—the most solid basis of our strength and of our future.

Lastly, the National Assembly invokes the blessings of the Almighty upon your Highness and on our dear country; may He grant the strength necessary to the arm of Servia to raise aloft the standard of liberty; and, led on by the glorious Obrénovitch, the the people of Servia will join in the universal cry of,—

Long live Prince Milan M. Obrénovitch IV!

Long live Servia!

Kragonievatz, September 7, 1875.

No 28.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 6.)

My Lord, *Mostar, September* 24, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch and its inclosures, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot on the 10th, just before leaving Mostar to endeavour to communicate with the insurgents. At present the departure of the post only allows me time to add that my Russian and French colleagues and myself returned here on the 22nd, having entirely failed to persuade the insurgents we met to submit, and to bring their complaints before Server Pasha. We did not, however, see any of the principal chiefs of the insurrection, who were all in the neighbourhood of Trebigné.

Our colleagues of Austria, Germany, and Italy returned on the 23rd, having been equally unsuccessful. They, however, saw the leaders of the insurrection near Trebigné, who demand an armistice and an European intervention to guarantee the reforms which may be adopted. I would here remark that, contrary to what is asserted in so many newspapers, the people of the Herzegovina neither demand, nor have ever desired, an impossible autonomy, as Servian agitators would have persuaded them to do. They only ask to remain subjects of the Sultan, with reformed laws, and a proper and just administration of them. How to secure this is the difficulty.

Next week I hope to forward a detailed report of my mission, the failure of which I have already telegraphed to Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, September* 10, 1875.

I TELEGRAPHED to your Excellency yesterday as follows:—

"Herzegovina quiet for the moment; Server Pasha has issued a conciliatory proclamation. We have decided that French, Russian, and myself proceed to Nevessine, and Austrian, German, and Italian to Dalmatian frontier on the 12th, to communicate with insurgents if possible. Server Pasha approves."

With regard to the insurrection in the Herzegovina, I need only say that all is calm for the moment. The troops have occupied all the principal places. The insurgents do not venture to attack them, and having destroyed some sixty or seventy villages, in fact all within their reach, are naturally quiet.

I inclose herein a translation of Server Pasha's Proclamation.

I have received from Ragusa your Excellency's despatch with copies of my instructions.

It will not be possible for me to send a copy of this despatch and its inclosures for some time to the Foreign Office, as I have immediately to prepare for my departure, and shall be perhaps moving about afterwards I know not how long.

My communications to your Excellency will also probably cease until we return from our expedition in search of the insurgents.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Proclamation by Server Pasha.

(Traduction.)

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultan notre auguste Souverain a daigné me charger de la mission spéciale d'ouvrir une enquête pour verifier les raisons qui ont provoqué des troubles en Herzégovine, et pour faire disparaître les abus et les actes en contravention des lois et de justice, si toutefois ils existent.

Il est notoire que notre Magnanime Souverain est animé envers tous ses fidèles sujets des sentiments paternels, et de même qu'en père affectionné il ne tolère jamais que ses enfants soient molestés de la part de qui que ce soit.

En conséquence de ce qui précède, je vous invite à vous rendre, sans retard, auprès de moi pour me communiquer tous les faits que vous alléguez comme ayant été commis contrairement aux lois et règlements que régissent l'Empire. Justice vous sera rendue, et vos demandes légitimes seront favorablement accueillies. Mais pour vous rendre digne de cette faveur souveraine, il vous faudra rentrer au plutôt dans vos foyers abandonnés sans motif, et reprendre vos travaux en toute confiance, car vous vous êtes laissés engager, par des suggestions ennemies, dans une voie contraire à l'obéissance et à la soumission que vous devez au trône. La voie de salut c'est celle que je viens de vous tracer. Aussitôt que vous y rentrerez, vous retrouverez le bonheur et la tranquillité. Votre bien-être augmentera encore par le redressement des erreurs de l'Administration locale, erreurs qui seraient constatées dans le cours de l'examen que je dois entreprendre. Enfin, soyez persuadés qu'en suivant mes conseils, et qu'en vous rendant au plutôt auprès de moi pour m'exposer votre situation, vous trouverez non seulement une pleine et entière justice, mais aussi vous mériterez d'autant plus vite de la générosité et de la sollicitude souveraines. Je dois aussi ajouter que l'armée Impériale ayant le devoir de sauvegarder partout la vie, l'honneur, et les biens des fidèles sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan, vous pouvez compter sur son appuie et protection, soit pour retourner dans vos villages, soit pour venir me rejoindre.

Si, contrairement à ce que je viens de vous dire, vous persistez dans votre conduite en prêtant l'oreille aux promesses et aux conseils de faux amis, dans ce cas, je vous le déclare, dès à présent, et à mon grand regret, que vous serez les seuls responsables devant Dieu et devant l'humanité des malheurs qui en résulteront.

(Translation.)

HIS Imperial Majesty the Sultan our august Sovereign has deigned to entrust me with the special mission of instituting an inquiry with a view of ascertaining the reasons which have induced troubles in the Herzegovina, and has charged me to eradicate all abuses and acts opposed to the laws and to justice, in the event of such existing.

It is notorious that our magnanimous Sovereign is animated towards his faithful subjects with paternal sentiments, and also that, like an affectionate father, he never allows his children to be molested by anyone whoever it may be.

I invite you, therefore, to come to me without delay to communicate to me all the facts that you allege have been committed contrary to the laws and regulations in force in the Empire. Justice will be done you, and your legitimate demands will be favourably received. But to render yourselves worthy of this sovereign favour, you must immediately return to your homes which you abandoned upon insufficient grounds, and begin your work again in all confidence, for you have allowed yourself to be enticed by unfriendly counsels into a course contrary to obedience, and to the submission you owe to the Throne. Your safest course is the one that I have just pointed out to you. As soon as you revert to it, you will recover both happiness and tranquillity. Your well-being will be increased still more by the correction of the errors of the local administration, which errors are to be proved in the course of the investigation which I am to undertake. In fact, be persuaded that in following my advice, and in coming to me as soon as possible to explain to me your position, you will find not only full and entire justice, but you will establish a more immediate claim to the generosity and solicitude of your Sovereign. I ought also to add that it being the duty of the Imperial army to protect everywhere the life, honour, and property of the faithful subjects of His Majesty the Sultan, you can count on its support and protection, whether to return to your villages, or to come to me.

If, contrary to what I have just said, you persist in your conduct and in listening to the promises and counsels of false friends, in that case I now declare to you with great regret that you alone will be responsible before God and mankind for the misfortunes which will then ensue.

No. 29.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 5 Octobre, 1875.

My Lord,

J'AI l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de la Sublime Porte, et qui est le texte de la promulgation de certaines réformes décrétées par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Votre très dévoué,
(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, October 5*, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency the accompanying copy of a telegraphic despatch which I have just received from the Sublime Porte, and which is the text of the promulgation of certain reforms decreed by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 4 Octobre*, 1875.

PUBLICATION officielle faite en date d'hier :—

"Tous les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan sans distinction sont l'objet constant de sa haute sollicitude et de son inépuisable bienveillance. Ceux qui s'écartent de la voie tracée par les devoirs de sujétion, et qui se rendent coupables d'illégalités, ceux-là seuls seront privés de la jouissance des bienfaits ; et la faute en retombera sur eux. Cette sollicitude Impériale vient de se manifester une nouvelle fois à l'égard des populations agricoles honnêtes et paisibles de l'Empire.

"En premier lieu, il a été décrété l'exemption immédiate pour ces populations du quart de la dîme précédemment établie.

"En outre, tous les arriérés d'impôts accumulés jusqu'à la date de l'année 1289 ont été abandonnés à leur profit ; la radiation des inscriptions de ces arrérages est ordonnée dans les registres du Trésor, et publication en sera donnée. Seront exceptés de cette mesure les fermiers, les garants, et les classes aisées pour leurs dettes envers le Trésor.

"Les diverses communautés doivent être représentés au sein des Conseils Administratifs par des personnes de leur choix et jouissant réellement de leur confiance. Les avis émis par ces derniers dans les limites de la légalité et du bon sens seront pris en sérieux considération.

"Le principe d'après lequel une délégation était autorisée, conformément à la loi organique des vilayets, à se rendre à Constantinople pour soumettre les demandes des Assemblées Générales annuelles des provinces, et qui était abandonné depuis quelque temps, a été remis en vigueur. Des personnes honorables et jouissant de la considération de leurs communautés respectives seront appelées en groupes et non en masse des vilayets et des mutessarifats. Les informations qu'on aura recueillies, soit par cette voie soit par d'autres moyens, serviront de bases aux réformes et aux modifications à adopter en vue du bien-être, de la prospérité, et du progrès général.

"Des agents et des contrôleurs spéciaux seront désignés selon la nécessité pour assurer la répartition et la perception des impôts, conformément à la loi existante et aux principes de la justice.

"Des ordres viennent d'être transmis à tous les vilayets pour la mise en exécution de ces mesures ; des études sont entreprises en ce moment pour trouver un système juste et de nature à satisfaire les exigences pour la conversion des dîmes en impôt foncier. De plus, on est à la recherche d'un mode fiscal uniforme en ce qui concerne les taxes.

"Il est décidé de réaliser au fur et à mesure ces réformes, ainsi que celles qui regardent l'organisation de la gendarmerie.

"Que la Divine Providence accorde de longs jours à notre auguste et magnanime Souverain pour la gloire de l'Empire et le bonheur de ses sujets !"

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 4, 1875.

OFFICIAL publication, dated yesterday.

"All the subjects of His Imperial Highness the Sultan, without distinction, are the constant object of his especial care, and of his never-ceasing kindness. Those who wander from the path marked out by the duties of subjection, and who are guilty of illegal acts, they only will be deprived of the enjoyment of benefits, and they will have to blame themselves for it. This Imperial solicitude is now once more evinced with respect to the honest and peaceful agricultural populations of the empire.

"In the first place, the immediate exemption of these populations from the quarter of the tithe formerly established has been decreed.

"Further, all arrears of taxes accumulated up to the date of the year 1289 have been abandoned for their advantage; the records of these arrears have been ordered to be cancelled in the Treasury Registers, and publicity will be given to this. There shall be excepted from this measure the farmers of taxes and sureties, and the well-to-do classes as regards their debts to the Treasury.

"The different communities are to be represented in the Administrative Councils by persons of their own selection, and really enjoying their confidence. The opinions of these latter persons, enunciated within the limits of the law and common sense, will be taken into serious consideration.

"The principle, according to which a delegation was authorized, in accordance with the 'organic law' of the vilayets, to proceed to Constantinople, in order to submit the demands of the Annual General Assemblies of the provinces, and which has been abandoned for some time, has been re-established. Honourable persons possessing the consideration of their respective communities will be called in groups, and not in a mass, from the vilayets and the mutessarifats. The information gained, either by this or by other means, will serve as basis for the reforms and modifications to be adopted in furtherance of well-being, prosperity, and general progress.

"Agents and special controllers will be selected as required, to ensure the distribution and collection of the taxes, in accordance with the existing law, and with the principles of justice.

"Orders have just been transmitted to all the vilayets for the carrying out of these measures; investigations, with a view to transform the tithes into a land tax, are proceeding, so as to establish an equitable system, and one likely to meet requirements. It will moreover be sought to introduce an uniform fiscal system as regards the taxes.

"It is decided to carry out these reforms gradually, as also those which relate to the organization of the police.

"May a Divine Providence grant a long life to our august and magnanimous Sovereign, for the glory of the empire and the happiness of his subjects."

No. 30.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 26, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received intelligence from Mr. Consul Holmes to the effect that he returned to Mostar on the night of the 22nd instant, and that his mission to the insurgents had not been successful.

On the following day the Austrian, German, and Italian Consuls arrived at Mostar, their mission having been likewise unsuccessful.

The insurgent Chiefs demanded an armistice and a European intervention to guarantee the reforms which might be adopted.

I have &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 31.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 28, 1875.

THE account which I have received from Mr. Consul Holmes relative to the engagement between the Turkish troops and the body of insurgents with which the Consuls had ust been in communication is not satisfactory.

He states that, while the Consuls were among the insurgents, the Wali proceeded to Stolatz, and ordered the troops to march against those assembled to meet the Consuls. On the 19th, having left the insurgents, they met the troops and were apprized of their destination. The attack was made on the 20th.

On the side of the insurgents there were six killed and many wounded. If this affair had happened a day sooner the consequence to the Consuls might have been fatal. The insurgents, Mr. Holmes adds, will probably hesitate to meet them again; they will not submit, as they distrust the Turks, and demand a European intervention.

Military operations have recommenced, and devastation continues on both sides.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 32.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 18.)

My Lord, *Mostar, September* 30, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of my despatch of the 28th instant addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, containing the details of my mission to the insurgents near Nevessine, with observations suggested by the present state of affairs in this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, September* 28, 1875.

I HAVE already reported to your Excellency in various telegrams the general result of our mission to the insurgents. I will now relate some of the details.

On the 12th instant I arrived at Nevessine, with my French and Russian colleagues. We found all the eastern part of the town towards the plain, and all the bazaar, burnt and in ruins. Dead bodies were lying in various corners unburied; and we noticed the head of a boy in one of the streets blackening in the sun. A little Turkish girl was brought to us, wounded in the throat, and we were told that an insurgent was on the point of cutting off her head when she was snatched from him by another less bloodthirsty, and allowed to escape. We were told that, as far as could be ascertained, some fifty or sixty persons perished on both sides during the attack.

We remained at Nevessine until the 15th, arranging a meeting with the insurgents, which was fixed for that day, at a certain spot in the vicinity of the village of Biograd or Belgrad, two hours' distant from Nevessine. We encamped there, and were met by about thirty insurgents. We declared to them, on the part of our respective Governments, that they could hope for no assistance from any of the European Powers, or from Servia or Montenegro. We represented to them the hopeless nature of their revolt, the sufferings they would experience, the misery and privation they would inflict on their families; and advised them to put an end to this state of affairs by laying down their arms, and stating all their grievances to Server Pasha. We explained to them that his Excellency was specially sent by the Sultan, who was most anxious that justice should be done, and that they should be freed from oppression and live in peace. They replied that they had no faith in the Turks; they had had the same promises before, and had been deceived; that they dared not, and would not, lay down their arms, and could not return to their homes and villages, as they had none left to return to: all had been destroyed, as they declared, by the Turks. They then began to expatiate on their grievances, which were chiefly the extortion and cruelty of their Agas, and the zaptiehs sent among them. We told them that these matters were precisely what Server Pasha had come to inquire into, and punish the guilty, and it was to him they should explain their grievances.

They then begged us to wait a day or two, while they sent for some of their leaders from other parts of the country, who would come without fail on or before the 19th, and we agreed to do so.

During our stay every day, and all day long, separately and together, we were obliged to listen to the complaints of the insurgents who remained with us, and to repeat to them the same reply—that it was to Server Pasha, and not to us, that these matters must be presented.

In the course of our interviews we were constantly asked whether the Powers would guarantee the execution of justice and reform. We replied that we were merely charged to give them friendly advice as to the best means of relieving themselves from the difficulties in which they were involved, but that they might be sure the Turkish Government was sincere in its promises, and that the attention of Europe having been drawn to their affairs, the Government could not deceive them without serious loss of honour, and damage to its own vital interests. They asked why Server Pasha had not come with us, and why the Delegates of Austria, Germany, and Italy were not with us, if they had the same message to give them. We replied that we had nothing to do with Server Pasha; that we were not acting as Turkish agents, but simply as friendly messengers from the European Governments, who, disapproving the means they were adopting to obtain their desires, had sent us to advise them what course they had best pursue, and that we had not come in one body in order to save time, as, while we were here with them, the other Delegates had gone to the neighbourhood of Trebigné, and along the Dalmatian frontier.

They repeatedly declared that they were, and wished to remain, faithful subjects of the Sultan, taking off their caps at the mention of his name, but that His Majesty was deceived by his Pashas, and could not be aware of their condition. We again pointed to Server Pasha's mission, this time proceeding direct from the Sultan as a proof to the contrary.

In short, the result was that unless Europe would guarantee their safety from their Agas and the authorities, and that the reforms promised should be really carried out, they dared not and would not lay down their arms.

While we were at Belgrad, the insurgents repeatedly expressed a fear that they would be attacked by the Turks. One night they nearly all left us, fearing an attack from Hojak, a neighbouring Turkish village which they had not been able to destroy. We assured them that while we were with them we did not think they would be molested.

We had several zaptiehs with us as guides, as well as our cavasses, all of whom were in abject fear the whole time of our stay, as the insurgents, while we were absent, did not hesitate to express their sentiments of hatred and vengeance against all Turks.

On the 18th two other Chiefs came with a few followers, and our interviews with them were to the same purpose, and with the same results as with the others. We were told that, as their chief leaders were engaged in active operations, they could not probably come to meet us, but if they could, they would see us the next day at Trussina, on our way to Dabar. We had previously intended to go to Gatzko, but the insurgents assured us that it would be useless, as their people were dispersed in the mountains defending themselves against Selim Pasha.

On the 19th we left Belgrad, accompanied by a small band of insurgents, and at Trussina we met with about an hundred and fifty more, but no other leading men beyond those we had already seen. We dismounted near a fountain and had a last interview, in which the same questions and statements were made as at previous meetings—the same replies on our part, and with the same result. At parting, the insurgents said that if we would go to the neighbourhood of Bilekia, they would meet us there, and we should perhaps be able to see many others, as the chief body of insurgents was between Bilekia and Trebigné. They said if we went they should see us and join us; if not, they would send a final message to us at Stolatz before the 22nd, but still repeated that they would not submit.

We left them with the intention of proceeding, if possible, to Bilekia. On the way to Stolatz, however, whither we had decided to go first in the hope of receiving some intelligence of our colleagues, we met a couple of battalions, provisions, and ammunition, proceeding in the direction from which we had come. I ordered my cavass to inquire of some of the soldiers in charge of the baggage where they were going. They informed him that they were going to attack the insurgents we had just left next morning before daybreak. I felt very indignant, as did my colleagues, at this attempt, as it seemed, to profit by the fact of our having assembled together a certain number of insurgents, to attack them when off their guard. On arriving at Stolatz, the Kaimakam also stated that an attack was to be made on the insurgents we had left, and on my expressing my disapproval of this proceeding, he said that he did not know, that he rather thought the troops were marching to Bilekia with provisions for the garrison there. The Governor-General had been at Stolatz, and had only left for Mostar two hours before our arrival.

We heard at Stolatz, also, that our colleagues were at Trebigné and Zupci, and would therefore meet the Chiefs of the rebels, who were all in that direction. We waited till the 22nd, and, not having received any message from the insurgents at Trussina, as promised, we returned to Mostar.

On the 23rd I spoke to the Governor-General about the expedition to Trussina, and

he said that Ali Pasha had not orders to attack the insurgents there, but the affair was brought on accidentally by the insurgents attacking a convoy. I said it might have been a very serious thing for us if it had happened one day sooner.

Our colleagues of Austria, Germany, and Italy arrived at Mostar on the 23rd, with the same impressions and the same results as ourselves.

The Chiefs of the insurgents demand an European intervention and an armistice to allow them to consult and assemble at any place which might be fixed to discuss their affairs. They do not, and never have desired independence or annexation to Montenegro, but they wish to remain Turkish subjects under very extensive administrative reforms, the execution of which to be guaranteed by Europe.

Whatever your Excellency may hear to the contrary, I can assure you that, in the Herzegovina, the only part of the people wishing for annexation to Montenegro are the districts adjoining the frontier from Sutorina to Kolashine. These districts are mere rocks, the scanty population herdsmen; and they are a burden rather than a profit to Turkey. The frontier districts of Bilekia receive annually:—

	Piastres.	Piastres.
From the Government for the pay of Pandours	124,000	
And pay for taxes	93,284	
Which leaves a charge on the Government of	..	30,716
The districts of Trebigné receive	123,000	
And pay for taxes	54,400	
		68,600
Those of Piva receive	128,250	
And pay for taxes	108,594	
		19,656
		118,972

Thus these districts are an absolute annual loss to the Porte of about 119,000 piastres In Bosnia, almost to a man, the population would refuse to be annexed to Servia or Austria, and they have never dreamt of independence, which, from the nature of circumstances and the state of education, is impracticable. They also only wish to be Turkish subjects, but to be governed with justice, and placed on an equality in law with the Mussulman compatriots.

There is no doubt that the Mussulmans and Christians agree much better in Bosnia than in the Herzegovina, where there is much more oppression to complain of; at the same time, acquainted as I am with the social condition of the country during fifteen years, I do not hesitate to declare that the oppression in the Herzegovina in general is greatly exaggerated by the Christians, and that the discontent which undoubtedly exists against most of the chief Turkish landowners and against the zaptiehs and tax-farmers has been the excuse rather than the cause of the revolt, which was assuredly arranged by Servian agitators and accomplished by force. The mass of the inhabitants, unarmed, had no choice. Their homes were devastated and their lives threatened, and they were ordered to follow their leaders. And now the ruin is such that those who wish to submit cannot. They have no homes to go to, and the armed bands threaten all who breathe a whisper of submission. These bands are all formed of a mixture of people from different parts of the country, and all mutually watch each other to prevent any combination to submit.

The ruin and devastation in the plain of Nevessine and along all the Dalmatian frontier, and wherever the insurgents have passed, is piteous to behold, and renders any satisfactory arrangement more hopeless than it would otherwise have been.

Your Excellency will observe that I have passed over the grievances of which the insurgents complain in a few general terms, because I think that at present the principal question is how to put an end as soon as possible to the actual state of affairs, which is apparently a complete deadlock.

No. 33.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 18.)

My Lord, *Mostar, October* 1, 1875.

THE inclosed pamphlet has this instant been placed in my hands. I have only time to forward it to your Lordship with a warning that it may probably contain a good deal of exaggeration. As soon as I can read it I will send your Lordship my observations on its contents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 33.

A glance at the Grievances which are the principal cause of the Insurrection of the Christian inhabitants in the Herzegovina.

ANYONE who wished to describe the variety and extent of the manifold burthens which weigh upon the Christian populations of the Herzegovina and Bosnia would have to write a considerable volume, which would require not a little time, as well as many investigations and much labour, for he would have to pry into every department, every district therein, and every communal division of the villages, as well as the various proceedings in the Courts, because in each of the separate localities there are characteristic specialities of imposition on the part of the respective Governments, the Agas, &c., according to the arbitrary and exacting will of the rulers and their dependents, more or less inclined to fill their own purses, more or less fanatical in their religion, more or less swayed by the prejudices of caste. Wherefore, merely to give some kind of idea respecting the deplorable condition of the Christians in these provinces, we will draw a brief sketch of the principal burdens arising from the direct impositions of the Government, from the frauds of the Agas, from the partiality of the Courts, and the insecurity of life, honour, and property, with suitable observations.

I.—*The various Imposts.*

1. *Tithes or Tenths, now Eighths.*—The tithes are an ancient tax, but since the present Sultan travelled in Europe an extra impost upon grain has been introduced under the name of "zam," at first as an extraordinary tax, but which has now become an ordinary one like the tithes, for instead of tenths eighths are collected, that is to say, instead of taking a tenth part of the produce, an eighth part is taken, and so where the tax was 10 per cent., it is now 12½ per cent. This 12½ per cent. is taken from all kinds of cereal grain, tobacco, vegetables, fruit, grapes, and hay.

The method of collecting the tithes is as follows:—

Private farmers buy the tithes by auction to the highest bidder, and it not unfrequently happens that the produce is not equivalent to the exhorbitant price paid to the Government by the farmers, and as the latter wish to make a good profit anyhow, it follows that they avail themselves of any means to do so, and these are the most unjust extortion and arrogance. For example, the confederate speculators arrive in the villages of which they have bought the tithes, bringing with them their followers and horses. There they mostly behave as absolute masters, and they live at the expense of the poor peasants, who have to provide them with all they require for eating and drinking to any extent they please. There are, however, some rare exceptions to this conduct. So great is the expense of supplying the wants of these voracious oppressors, that the poor people are often obliged to borrow from them at usurious interest the very means to provide for them.

The "spahi" or farmers of the tithes ought to see the thrashing of the grain, and when it is measured they ought to fix the proper tithes; but it is very difficult to get them to do this, for the most blustering and powerful tithe-farmers buy the tithes of many villages, and as they cannot be present at all of them, and will not trust to others, it is their pleasure to fix the tithes by an approximate calculation ("tamin") in which, of course, they set down more than there is. In vain the owner complains; he must be satisfied with his assessment, for he knows very well that the farmers are sure of Government support, and not unfrequently some of the most influential members of the Government act in concert with the speculating tithe-farmers.

It happens in many places, especially where there are fields, that the tithe-farmer leaves his grain as it were in deposit in some poor hut or shed in the village with no one to look after it, and then if any damage or loss occurs, the peasants of the village are bound to make it good. Other tithe-farmers will not take to their grain at once, but leave it with the peasant for any length of time, so that it gets dry, and the peasant has to bear the loss; or the grain is left in expectation of a rise in price, or that the peasant in his need may consume it, and so be charged for it at double price. If grapes are dear they take to them at once; if cheap they endeavour to put them off on the peasant at a profitable price. If the vintage is not abundant they accuse the peasant of concealing and consuming it.

Hay, and the various produce of gardens, such as potatoes, cabbages, garlic, onions, fruit, and so on, are not taken in kind; an approximative price must be fixed, which has to be paid in ready money. If application be made to the Government it will always

decide the prices in favour of the tithe-farmers. But why should the Government act in this manner between the tithe-farmers and the owners? This is the reason; apart from the fact that many influential members of the Government share in the profits of the confederates, the Government itself endeavours to sell the tithes at the highest possible price. Therefore, to encourage the buyers in their competition with each other, it favours them in every way that it can. On this account also the Government defers the assignment of the tithes for months, in the hope of getting a higher price. This is a cause of grevious suffering to the poor people. They are hungry, and they dare not touch the fruits of their own labour to satisfy their wants, for if they did, they would inevitably have to pay double tithe. This delay in selling the tithes is one of the most insupportable and injurious grievances of the poor people. Many representations have been made to the Government in their behalf, to induce it to take a middle course, and to fix the price of the tithes according to the average years; then to let the villagers pay so much a-year and thus prevent the abuses and injustice which always accompany the farming of the tithes. But all has been in vain.

Finally, when all these tithes are assented and registered, they will not always be found correct when the accounts come to be liquidated. If the assessment is higher than it ought to be, what matters? it must be neither more nor less than what is registered, for a Mussulman never mistakes nor deceives, and a Christian deserves no credit. And then if the unfortunate villager has not the money ready for payments of what is due, misery upon misery, his house will be occupied at his expense until he has paid the whole. He is bound to maintain and to serve those who are quartered upon him, at their imperious pleasure, and his expenses in so doing go for nothing in the account. By way of example, if a person owes 20 piastres and spends 100 in the maintenance of these people, it is not taken into consideration. At last an arrangement is made, the peasant acknowledges his debt with double interest, or an animal is taken for 50 piastres, though it may be worth 100 and more. Many cause the poor people of the villages to be put in prison, where they suffer from hunger, cold, flogging, and other ill-treatments. Sometimes false receipts are given, and the amount of the debt has to be paid again. All these proceedings in the collection of the tithes, take place likewise in levying the tobacco-tax, of which we shall speak hereafter. Taking everything into consideration, it may be said without fear of exaggeration that the poor people pay a sixth or seventh part of their produce.

2. *The "Giumruk," or Direct Excise.*—We do not speak here of the transit-excise, or of smuggling, but of the excise upon tobacco grown in the Province, and upon wine and spirits. It has already been stated that tithes-eighths in fact are collected upon grapes; the same is the case with regard to tobacco. The tithes upon tobacco are sold by auction separately from the other tithes; but in like manner all the business is conducted by the Government and the tithe-farmers, as in the case of grain above-mentioned, and if the purchasers are cruel, as for the most part they are, the same arbitrary extortion takes place. But the Government is not satisfied with the eighths upon tobacco, but requires something besides the fixed special "giumruk;" that is, every "oka" of tobacco has to pay 8 piastres (Government valuation), of which the owner of the tobacco has to pay 3 piastres, and the purchaser 5 piastres, and the latter, before purchasing it, is bound to obtain the permission of the Superintendant of the "grumruk," and when he has purchased it, he must leave a written certificate of the quantity he has purchased with the owner of the tobacco. This applies to the subjects or inhabitants of Turkey; foreigners are not allowed to purchase tobacco.

We have now to state the mode of ascertaining the quantity of the tobacco for the imposition of the "giumruk." Immediately before or after the farmers of the tithes on tobacco go their rounds through the villages with a goodly company, to set down the amounts in their own way, there is a visitation of five or six low and cunning persons with horses; these have to examine and record the quantity of tobacco still growing on the stalk; they go in procession from house to house, and from plantation to plantation, and prolong the time as they please, in order to feed gratuitously. But, for fear they may have put down too little, the round is repeated twice again, on the pretext of correcting any mistake that may have been made. Then they are in the habit of sending other searchers after the first, on pretence of finding out any trickery on the part of these, as if they were not all accomplices; and they give themselves airs of patronage, and would make it appear that they are acting with a scrupulous regard for justice and the public welfare. So that the people are ever in the midst of inconceivable injury and abuse of authority.

The "giumruk" on wine and spirits. Of the wine drawn from the must, which remains to the owner after deducting the eighths, the tenth "oka" is considered to

belong to the Sovereign, less two loads (200 okas) left to the family of the owner. These are registered by the "giumruckers," or others chosen for the purpose, who make the usual overbearing round through villages and houses in the manner above-mentioned, and search every corner.

From the lees of a load of wine it is supposed that ten okas of brandy may be produced, so that for every 100 okas of wine an oka of brandy goes to the Sovereign. When the registers of the searchers are taken to the Medjlis Court, the latter fixes the price, which is usually 2 piastres on every oka of wine, and 5 piastres on every oka of brandy, so that the owner may pay the "giumruk" in ready money.

Here is an instance: if a person has 1,000 okas of wine, he must give 80 okas to the Sovereign, that is, 160 piastres—the Government valuation; moreover, he must give 10 okas of brandy, that is, 50 piastres. So that, besides the tithes, the Government receives at least 210 piastres, equal to 23 florins, or more, on ten loads of wine, without reckoning the extortions of the "giumruckers" and their adepts.

3. The impost on the herb called "broé," which is used as a red dye by the dyers. For every bit of ground planted with this herb, though it may be only a few square fathoms, 4 piastres must be paid every year, notwithstanding that the peasant derives no profit from it till the fourth year.

4. *The Land-Tax* ("*Campatico*").—For some years past the land-tax has been introduced into this province also. When the land has been measured, and its quality estimated by a deputation of Turks, accompanied by some ignorant Christian, it is charged at 4 in the 1,000. Thus, if the land be valued in money at 1,000, 2,000, or 10,000 piastres, or any other amount, 4 piastres for every 1,000 of the valuation must be paid to the Treasury yearly; for 10,000, 40 piastres, and so on. But as the Christians have but little land, and the Turks a great deal—for they are always getting possession of it in some way—it follows that the valuations of the land are evidently low and partial, so that the Turks have to pay very little land-tax.

5. *The House-tax* ("*Casatico*").—Houses and other buildings are estimated at so much by the deputation as above, and, according to the valuation, they likewise pay four in the thousand to the Treasury. But in order to escape from the burthen of the house-tax, the Turks have manœuvred to have their own houses estimated at a very low price. There are, for example, some which are worth fifty-thousand piastres, and they are only valued at five thousand. It is fitting to notice here, that the Turks exhibit a barbarous avidity in appropriating even the wretched houses erected by the Christians on their ground, and in many places they have registered them in their own names, in order to drive the Christians from their habitations the more easily, and to claim the houses as their property; but they never pay the house-tax thereon.

The Grass-tax ("*Travarina*").—This strange impost is laid upon the pastures among the mountains, where the peasants go with their cattle in the summer. For every head of neat cattle, four piastres are paid, in some places more, besides the quantity of small animals and butter which must be given up to the Government, and taking no account of what is given to the pretended owners of those waste and desert lands, for the Turks cannot bear that there should be any spot of ground there without some arbitrary Turkish lord.

7. *The Porez.*—Where the "tanzimat" of the land-tax and "rad" is not yet perfectly introduced, there is the "porez" on large cattle, every head of such cattle having to pay from 15 to 20 piastres.

8. *The Agnam-impost on Small Animals.*—Two piastres are paid on every head of small cattle. The local authority is not entrusted with the telling of the animals, but other persons are employed for the purpose, rarely honest, but choice rogues, greedy of sly gain, who go shares with their employers in what they get by cheating. They come down upon the villages without notice, sometimes by night, in order to make sure of finding all the animals. If they find but few, they think they are deceived; then they go again on a sudden, frighten, threaten, and curse. Sometimes they purposely omit to register a number of animals, and this, on the understanding with their employers, to come down on the poor peasant and accuse him of fraud, in order to double the tribute in money, and so they get half for themselves. The numbers are taken in the month of March, and a short time afterwards they begin to demand the money, And though this is the time when the greatest mortality occurs among the cattle, no matter, every registered head of cattle must be paid, even if half of them be dead. The conduct of these wretches is altogether brutal, though they live at the expense of the poor people, who at that time of the year are in want of everything, and half-dying with hunger in many cases; yet must provide those fellows and their horses with plenty to eat and drink gratuitously. Sometimes as many as sixteen of such persons have been

seen over and over again in a single village, armed to the teeth as if they were going to attack a fortress.

9. *Royalty.*—This is a special impost of four piastres a year on every full-grown hog.

10. The Turks are very fond of honey, and they go in search of every hive for it; if they do not take the produce, from two to four piastres have to be paid annually.

11. *The Poll-tax.*—Every male Christian, from birth to death, must pay the poll-tax for exemption from the military conscription. For this, every male person has to pay 29 to 30 piastres a year. Not even the poorest beggars are exempted; and as they, of course, cannot pay, the respective villages must pay for them.

12. *The "Rad," or Labour Tax.*—A monstrous invention and clever contrivance of the Turks of late years to save their estates from a higher land-tax. They suppose that the poor agriculturists may earn from 500 to 1,500 piastres in money by daily labour or hire, as if all their time were not taken up with the various kinds of produce upon which they pay the tithes, the "giumruk," and other taxes, as well as in the services which they have to render to the Agas. This appears to us a malignant insult to humanity—to suppose the poor peasant always healthy, to take no account of sickness or other accidents, but to insist always on the poll-tax; for, though the wretched creature may be laid up with illness, he must still pay the poll-tax in his misery! Then, if the Christian is engaged in any miserable trade or calling, or keeps horses for carriage, it is supposed that he may earn as much as 2,500 piastres a-year. On the presumption of these imaginary earnings it is decided that every one shall pay the 40th piastre to the Treasury. So that if it be supposed that any one can earn 1,000 piastres, he must pay 25 to the Government, and so on.

13. *The Duty of Working on the Public Roads.*—The more necessary public roads are, the worse they are begun and carried out in our parts, and this is obvious to all. The Christians have to work on the roads. It was said that the Imperial Government had ordered that every one fit for labour should work four days in the year, or, as others say, eight; in short, we are in the dark respecting this. It was said also that the Government had assigned some pay to the Christian labourers, but they have never seen or received any. The fact is, however, that according to the "nufuz," or the number of males fit for work, every peasant spends from ten to fifteen days in going from and returning to his house, according to the greater or lesser distance of the places, as was the case with the work on the road leading from Mostar to Serajevo, where for several years the Christians had to go and take with them their sorry fare, at the time of their most urgent work at home, which had to be neglected, to their very serious loss; and they worked for eight whole days, besides the three, four, or five spent in the journeys according to the distance of the road, without ever receiving even a morsel of bread. This must have cost each of them not less than 100 piastres every time he went; nor could any one absent himself, even though there were ten in the family. How much the cost was to large families may be calculated from this. Where there are many labourers in a family the loss is great, and where there is only one it is serious, because all work at home is stopped. We say nothing of the ill-usage received by the poor rayah from the Mussulmans on these occasions also.

14. *The "Komore," or Horse-Service.*—These unfortunate Provinces, separated from the rest of the Empire, without carriage-roads, mountainous, and adjacent to populations hostile to the Government, are continually suffering from a special grievance, called "komore," or service of horses in the difficult and dangerous conveyance of the army and its requirements, which shatters both men and horses. Thousands and thousands of horses have perished in this service without any compensation whatever. How many more must perish in this most painful crisis! Dire ruin to Christian men and families; drudgery without end. Were they at least treated with some sort of humanity; but no: they get brutal usage, scorn, outrage of every kind, danger of life, from those to whom they render this bloody service. From the loss of the horses both people and communes incur other great damages, for the saleable goods can only be conveyed on horseback, so that the slight trade which is carried on goes to ruin, for the poor wretches have to carry on their own shoulders what is required for themselves and the Agas. It appears incredible that such an accumulation of miseries, wrongs, and vexations should so often be found in the world.

15. *Summary of the Imposts in a Certain Case.*—Here we give an example of a farmer of moderate means in our parts. He will have:—

	Piastres.	Florins.
1. Grain, 40 loads; for the tithes he gives 5 loads, ordinary value	500	50
2. Hay, 20 loads; for tithes, 2½ loads	60½	6·05
3. Cabbages, 8 loads; for tithes, 1 load	55	5·50
4. Potatoes, vegetables, and fruit, approximately ..	150	15
5. Must, 16 loads; for tithes, 2 loads	200	20
6. Wine, 10 loads; for the "giumruk" (Government value)	160	17·60
7. Brandy, for the "giumruk"	50	5·50
8. Tobacco, 1 load; tithes, 12½ per cent. ..	125	12·50
9. Tobacco, for the "giumruk"	300	33
10. Dyers, red, 2	8	·80
11. Land-tax for his ground, valued at 3,000 piastres	12	1·30
12. House-tax, houses and buildings, valued at 2,000 piastres	8	·88
13. Grass-tax, on mountain, neat cattle 10 head, an animal and butter	80	8
14. "Porez" for 15 head of large cattle	235	25·80
15. "Agnam" for 100 head small animals ..	200	22
16. Royalty for 2 hogs	8	·80
17. Beehives, 10	20	2
18. Poll-tax on 5 males	145	16
19. "Rad" or labour-tax on 5 males, supposed average earnings, 3,000 piastres	75	7·62
20. Road work, by 3 men, costs him at least ..	300	30
21. His share in the extortions of the tax-farmers and the various persons employed in the village, at least	100	10
	2,790½	290·35

Note.—The variation in the piastres and florins arises from the difference between the commercial and the Government value; the former being 10 piastres and the latter 11 piastres to a florin.

16. Whoever takes a just view of the circumstances of this Christian family, supposed to possess moderate means, amongst others who are not worth more than 10,000 piastres, or 1,000 florins, altogether, will easily perceive the enormity of the taxation. If, moreover, it be considered that not even a tenth of the Christian families can, in ordinary years, make sure of their yearly keep without running into debt, surely the poor people here are entitled to compassion from those who have feelings of humanity, and to some effort to assist them in their deplorable state—in their opprobrious servitude, where the cry is continually heard, "O, Lord, send us our death!" And all this exists where the Turkish masters, who possess fifty times the means, do not pay as much in taxes to the Government as the above-mentioned Christians.

We think it in keeping with the subject to mention another instance of partiality on the part of the Turkish rulers and "Medjlis," towards the Mussulmans. It is this:—If a Mussulman is indebted to the Treasury on account of farming the tithes, good reasons are found to wait, even for years, until he can discharge his debt, whilst with the Christians, instead of waiting, there is always an endeavour to make them to pay the taxes beforehand.

17. The taxes are multiplied with marvellous facility, and they are harshly and rigorously collected. No effort can be made to promote the public welfare by providing resources, for obstacles are put in the way. Vain are the proposals and the zeal of intelligent persons, useless the entreaties of the Christians; for our Turks put them off and oppose the best undertakings, preferring to remain in trouble rather than allow the Christians to get any advantage. Witness the uncultivated fields near Mostar and many others, which might, at comparatively little expense, be drained and irrigated, to the benefit no less of the Treasury and the Agas than of the Christians; yet all endeavours have hitherto been useless.

Note.—No one believes that the Public Treasury gets all the benefit of these taxes, but it is most certain that they are all wrung from the people by the Government officers and in the name of the Government. To have an empty Treasury, and the people reduced to extreme misery, and not to apply a remedy, is ruin to both.

II.—*Grievances proceeding from the Agas.*

1. The Agas are Turks, owners of the lands held and cultivated by the Christians, called "kmeti," or colonists, for their own profits. There are some Turkish owners who

have acquired their lands in a legal manner; but most of them have got the land from time to time by usurpation, dispossessing the original Christian owners by main force, without any legal title; in this way many Christian families have been obliged to give way to overbearing power protected by tyranny, and to acknowledge themselves as tenants of another, where they were the real hereditary owners.

All the Agas are prepossessed and ruled by the mediœval feudal spirit, accompanied by a rude and disdainful obstinacy which scorns any progress which appears against their interests. These look upon the "kmet" as their slaves, and claim absolute power over them. In this they all tenaciously agree, and united by community of interest, they form a compact phalanx to oppose both the Government and the Christians. They adhere to their opinions the more because they are convinced that the Mahometans are destined and authorized by God to rule over the rayah.

The surly Aga will also use a stick and strike the "kmet" without pity, in a manner that no one else would use a beast. Then to blaspheme what the poor man holds most dear, to insult him outrageously, is an action worthy of a true Mussulman and entitles him to reward in the other world.

2. The lands held by the Christians of the Turks are, from the quality of the soil, the ruggedness of the region, especially in the Herzegovina, the scantiness of the ground fit for cultivation, insufficient for the poor "kmet," and do not produce what he requires; so that the produce usually depends more upon the labour and industry of the "kmet" than upon the natural fertility. The Agas wish rather to have many "kmet" than to provide them with sufficient land to maintain them; the greater the number the more the service.

They reserve the best lands for themselves. There are portions in the largest fields which are acknowledged as belonging to the colonial ground, but held to be free, so that they may afford more advantage. If a Christian holds a piece of Turkish land, and erects a house or other building in the neighbourhood, even beyond the bounds, the Turk seizes the ground upon which the house stands. In like manner if the farmer encloses with a hedge or a wall some tract of free and communal land for pasture, wood, or other use of his own, there is no remedy, the Aga becomes master of that also. If the Christian "kmet" clears any wooded ground or excavates a garden amongst rocks and stones by his own labour, whatever may be the distance from the master's land, the Aga appropriates that too, on the ground that the slave "kmet" has worked at it whilst he was maintained by the master's estate. For this same reason the Turks, in concurrence with their co-religionists, prevent the recovery and cultivation of land where they know they cannot appropriate it, so that the Christians may not possess it.

3. The contingents supplied to the Agas from the produce of the estate, and the amounts of service and labour rendered on the part of the "kmet," vary arbitrarily according to the temper of the masters, as there are no regulations prescribed by law; and this is one of the chief causes of abuse and oppression. The Government had made some kind of arrangement in this respect, directing that there should be agreements between the Agas and the "kmet," but the majority of the Agas in these parts have hitherto ignored that arrangement, and so with the "kmet," who desired to make agreements with the Agas, for the latter have since become more harsh, more exigent, and more menacing towards the "kmet," revenging themselves on every occasion, restricting the farms, increasing their services, and sometimes turning the poor "kmet" out of his holding, where he must leave the buildings he has erected and the improvements he has made, without any compensation or repayment. And if anyone make application to the Government for such repayment, the Agas at once have recourse to the subterfuge of debts; they bring forward these pretended debts for years and years; find false witnesses, if necessary, and so it is well for the "kmet" if, instead of receiving anything from the Aga, he has not to pay him something more. Meanwhile, from the land which is considered as the regular estate of the settlement, the "kmet" has usually to give the Aga—

(*a.*) A fourth part of the various produce obtained from the ground.

(*b.*) Some animal yearly, as well as a certain quantity of butter and cheese.

(*c.*) To carry him so many loads of wood, and, if the Aga is building a house, the "kmet" must carry the materials for it.

(*d.*) To work for, and serve the Aga gratuitously whenever he pleases. Sometimes the Aga requires one of the "kmet's" children to serve him for nothing.

(*e.*) To make a separate plantation of tobacco, to cultivate it and bring it to maturity until it is lodged in the master's house.

(*f.*) To plough and sow, without remuneration, so many acres of land, and to do all that is necessary until the produce is lodged in the master's barn. The amount of this

produce, gratuitously attended to for the Aga by the "kmet," mostly exceeds the produce of the land held by the "kmet."

(*g.*) If the Aga comes to the "kmet's" house, the latter must provide him, as well as his horses and dogs, with all that they require; he must do everything to satisfy his master in regard to service and the best food he can procure, and must appear as if he were pleased and honoured by the visit of the Aga, and the opportunity of maintaining him gratuitously for days and weeks, and even for a month.

Finally, when several brothers or other relations forming a family settled upon a Turkish estate, separate into new families and divide the estate so that each may labour for himself, the Aga insists that each of them shall do as much work for him and render him as much service as they all did together, although the land occupied is neither more nor less than it was before.

III.—*Grievances proceeding from the Medjlis.*

1. The Turkish Courts consist, like others, of civil and criminal. In the first the Pashas, or Kaïmakam, sit in the districts, the Mufti, two or three Mussulmans, two Christians—one for the Orthodox, the other for the Catholics. In the second, the Cadi, with two or three Turks and two Christians, as in the first. The preponderance of the Turks will immediately be seen, and their decisive majority in every case. Moreover, the Mussulmans have this advantage, that the Pashas, the Kaïmakams, and the Cadis, who are the presiding authorities and Judges in the Courts, are of their own religion, and if these are not satisfied with the judicial decision, nothing is done. To this is to be added the close union and joint understanding of the Mussulmans amongst themselves, from political and religious motives, from the knowledge of their own laws, and from the exclusive use of the Turkish language in the Courts; whereas those few Christians who apply to the Courts, without any knowledge of the laws or of the Turkish language, go for nothing, and in most cases had better keep away from the Courts altogether.

Besides, many of the officers, or other rich and powerful Turks, have a direct or indirect influence on the Courts, whilst no intelligent or able Christian is allowed to advocate the cause of the Christians. In short, we believe that there are no Judges in the world so ready to receive donations for the perversion of justice as the Turkish Judges. And then, as the Mahometans acknowledge no other law and ground of justice than the "sceriat" of the Coran, only adapting themselves to the Canon and other modern laws from political necessity, their decided intention always is to favour the Mussulman and Mahometanism in regard to other religions. Another incident is in favour of the Mussulman party: the principal Turkish officers and functionaries being Osmanli, and not knowing the language of the country, can never be well informed of the state of the various cases; they have to get at it by means of the interpreters, more or less ignorant, more or less malicious; for if these are Turks they never explain the affairs of the Christians with sincerity, but in their own way, concealing everything unfavourable to the Turks; and if they are Christians it is very seldom that they know the Turkish language sufficiently to be able to convert the expressions of the Slav.

2. In bringing actions and taking proceedings the Mussulmans have these advantages over the Christians:—

1. In having the Judges predisposed and favourable to their causes.

2. In the freedom which they enjoy of making any accusation against the other religions, without corroboration.

3. In the countenance of special and powerful co-religionists, always ready to protect them.

4. In their ability, as the richer, to bribe the Judges, whose weaknesses they know better than the others.

5. In easily having the charge drawn up in the Turkish language.

Whilst the Christian is distitute of these advantages, fears the revenge of the Agas and other Turks, does not understand the judicial ways, and is afraid of spending a great deal and losing his cause; or because he is too poor to incur the expense of the proceedings, finally on account of the difficulty of getting any one to draw up the charge in the Turkish language, for the Mussulmans will not assist the Christians in this if their complaint is against a Mahometan; or if they serve him for a good fee, they make it appear that the Christian is in the wrong, and so the poor wretch is bewildered, dares not bring his cause before the Court, or, if he does, he proceeds so dilatorily and awkwardly, that he must necessarily lose it, and repent that he ever undertook it. But if a Turk proceeds against a Christian, the latter not daring or knowing how to defend himself, and browbeaten by the Turk, must necessarily lose. The Christians are so thoroughly discouraged

by similar tricks and manœuvres practised by the Turks, of which they are conscious from their very infancy, that it is impossible to induce them to take proceedings against the Turks, be the offences and injuries ever so serious. Therefore the Turks always act together, and enjoy the pleasure of keeping the Christians in a state of terrorism.

3. The Turks are well versed in the art of misrepresenting the causes of action, mocking at them, and perverting the evidence to the injury of the Christians; and this they do with perfect ease and arrogance, secure of success from long practice. First of all, it should be mentioned, that no recompense or payment is prescribed by law for the loss of time and trouble of witnesses called to the Court to give evidence; they must go at their own expense; therefore every one tries to keep clear of such matters, which are not only dangerous enough, but also of considerable cost. Now, if a Turk has an action with one of the Christians, he will always get some one of his confraternity, who, from community of civil and religious interests, will give evidence in his favour; and they know marvellously well how to arrange matters amongst themselves, and to manage all the proceedings in the case, so that it is very difficult for the Christian to bring forward countervailing evidence. If there be no Turks in the neighbourhood of the place where the crime or cause of action occurred to come and give evidence—no matter whether they be eye-witnesses or hearsay witnesses—they will come even from a hundred miles away, if they receive information from a plaintiff of their own religion and will protest and swear that they were at the place at the time of the occurrence, and know all about it, laying hands on their hearts, and interspersing their speech with "din" and "jemin;" then a hundred other Turks, moved by this witness's veracity, will confirm him throughout. Well, this is sufficient for the application of the "sceriat," and to decide in favour of the Mussulman, for every means is allowable to free the faithful Mussulman from the annoyances and claims of the giaour—Christians. If a Turk requires any testimony from the Christians, he can always get it without much difficulty, if not otherwise, by threats, or by appealing to the Aga to make his "kmet" give the required testimony; and if such testimony be against an infidel it is received as valid. On the contrary, no testimony can be got against a Turk, because his co-religionists will not give evidence against him, though they know him to be guilty. Then, if a Christian brings another Christian as a witness, the latter will say something faintly against the guilty Turk; but it is of little use, for the Turkish Judges always adhere to the principle of the "sceriat"—pernicious and fatal to the Christians—according to which the evidence of the infidel Giaour is of no avail against the Mussulman. Although this maxim is usually kept secret, from policy, it often escapes, in full Court, from the lips of the chief Mussulman Judges in their passion. Supposing that there is a case in which they cannot get rid of a Christian's evidence, after a thousand objections, they have recourse to this artifice: whilst the Christian witness is passing through the square of the city, they place some fellow of their own in the middle of it, who immediately with a loud voice utters some infamous accusation against him, such as thief, &c., and then the same cry comes from a hundred Turkish mouths, and the false accusation sticks to the poor witness, and invalidates his evidence. They do just the contrary in regard to any Turk of notorious bad character whose evidence is wanted, that is, they require from the canton of the city where he lives a certificate of his good report, and this is given at once; then the "sceriat" comes into play, as they say, and the juggle ends in favour of the good Mussulman.

4. The sad maxim which the Christians apply to the Turkish Courts; there is no justice there for Christians is fully justified. If anyone should take it into his head to consult and turn over the proceedings of the Mussulman Tribunals, looking with a steady eye at the trials, decisions, and sentences, he would be disgusted with that labyrinth of confusion, contradiction, and injustice, and would feel deeply for the down-trodden humanity of those children of Adam. From the above-mentioned character of the Turks, of the Judges, and witnesses, anyone may, on the principle of causality, easily comprehend the justice of the sentences and decisions. The complaint having been lodged in the Turkish language (otherwise it would be rejected) in the hands of the Pasha, or Kaïmakam; if it is found to be in conformity with the legal formalities, it is sent to the Cadi. He puts it up with a hundred others not yet settled, and orders the complainant to come back at given date; this is repeated several times, and the applicant is reproached for his importunity. When the time has at last arrived to take the case in hand, the counsellors stammer something or other about it, and the Cadi reserves his final decision until the other side has spoken; he, however, regulates his conduct according to the maxims of the "sceriat" and his own interests. If the litigating parties are Christians, after having heard them both, he will defer the case in order that they may have time to mollify the exasperated mind of the Judge by secret donations, the weight of which will decide in the scales of the Cadi. If the donations of both parties are equal and abundant, he will

give them earnest advice to agree amicably between themselves, and dismiss them from the "Medjlis." If the case is one of a Christian against a Turk, even donations will be of little use, unless they should be so large as to incline the mind of the Cadi to give way somewhat in favour of the Christian, otherwise he will act rather as the advocate of his Mussulman than as a Judge, indulging in a number of capricious and foolish questions irrelevant to the matter, with remarks on the offence and the accompanying circumstances, and on the character of the witnesses, whose evidence he will reject, whilst he brings forward some silly falsehood in discredit of Christian honesty:

1. If the witnesses do not quite agree, even in regard to incidentals and minutiæ, though they may have nothing to do with the subject-matter of the case.

2. If they change any word on repeated examination.

3. If they have ever been imprisoned, justly or unjustly matters not; and this goes on to weary out the complainant and the witnesses, and make them relinquish the suit.

Finally, if the evidence legally proves the crime of the Turk, there is some subterfuge; the judgment is suspended, the Turk is remanded, to see if by chance he can find out any circumstances and witnesses in his favour, and he is sure to find them. If, for example, it be proved that the said Turk slew a Christian at a certain place on a certain day, he will find witnesses who will prove that on the said day he was at another place at any distance from that where the crime was committed, and they will confirm their evidence by oath on the Kitab. Then the scene suddenly changes, and severe penalties are incurred by the giaour calumniators who have dared to profane the sanctuary of the Courts with base lies and aspersions to the injury of an innocent Mussulman. Then the remarks and the just anger of the Cadi and Medjlis echo throughout the city, and those poor fellows are at once thrown manacled into prison, fined, and rendered infamous for ever.

Supposing the case of a Turk against a Christian for some serious offence, instantly the Cadi, the Medjlis, and the other Turks are in commotion; they one and all make common cause to do whatever they can against the Christian rabble, against those blackguard Montenegrins, who are all alike. Suppose a Turk is killed in some distant place among the barren mountains by an unknown person, they do not wait for inquiries and legal investigations, they cry aloud for vengeance and massacre; if they meet any Christian there, they sack whole villages of Christians near the place of the crime, and ill-treat the inhabitants with impunity; they drive, like a heard of cattle, hundreds of heads of families with kicks and musket-butts; and when they come to the city the unrestrained Turkish rabble await them and accompany them to the Courts and prisons with cries and groans, stoning, and the most cowardly outrages, so that the consternation of the prisoners and the atrocities of the crowd reach the highest pitch. After that the wretched Christians groan in the foul prisons, or are dragged to the Courts where they are again threatened, to make them confess the crime. They are told, you know all about it, all you villains have conspired to murder that innocent Mussulman; we have evidence to prove it, and if you don't confess you will go the gallows and the stake. This tragedy goes on for months, until it is found out that the assassin was some foreigner who had nothing to do with those poor Christians, or some Mahometan adversary of the murdered man; then after their ill-treatment the Christians are sent back to their homes without any satisfaction, or when the fury has somewnat abated, and the Christians are found to be innocent, they say they have not ascertained with certainty (metaphysical perhaps) who was the assassin; so for the greater security, or rather to cover the enormous and disgraceful injustice, some of the principal Christians, or those most hateful to the Turks, must rot in chains for years in the prisons; others, by favour and on giving bail, are sent to their wretched homes with a warning to be careful not to do so again.

Would to God that such scenes were seldom and few in these unfortunate and thus barbarously-tormented provinces.

IV. No security for life, for honour, or for property. How can we seek for liberty and progress when we do not possess the most essential of the rights of man? that is, the right of life, honour, and property, for at every slight check, every trumpery suspicion amongst the Turks, from the arbitary greed or fierce envy of the ill-disposed master, everything is uncertain, everything in danger. There is no energetic provision on the part of the Government against these evils, no safeguard on the part of the Tribunal; all rests upon the insolent and brutal will of the fanatics, always intent upon ill-treating and oppressing the poor Christian, degrading him and depriving him of every civil right; and all this with unexampled malignity on political and religious principle, not to be changed but by fire and sword. This is proved—

1. By hundreds of things that have happened in every direction, and which are continually happening in these provinces.

2. By the blindest religious fanaticism, innate in our Mussulmans, and the fiercest hatred of everything appertaining to Christianity.

3. By the continued threats of the Turks against every Christian, which are carried out with impunity every day in the most cruel manner.

4. By the fact that the Government takes away the arms of the Christians, whilst it distributes them to the Turks, which refers to the massacre in Syria. Nor is this imagination only, for our Mussulmans have been heard to speak of this project, by several and more than once. They were and are very much disposed to commit such a crime, and if it has not been committed yet, it is because some more discreet Mussulman has restrained them by pointing out the doleful consequences that would ensue for them.

5. By the continual provocations on the part of the Mussulmans even under present circumstances; thus, certain Mussulmans take upon themselves to force the poor Christians faithful to the Government to deliver up to them any rusty old pistols which they may have, so that they may be ill-treated the more safely. So they fall upon the Christians everywhere, beat them, wound them, and threaten their lives; burn their houses, lay waste their vineyards and gardens, besides the most disgusting blasphemies against everything the most sacred and dear in the Christian religion; outrages on the honour of persons and families, calumnies and forged documents to accuse the most respectable persons among the Christians of rebellion against the Government—all proceeding from their passion and hatred.

We think we ought not to omit a characteristic event which happened lately. Whilst His Majesty the Emperor of Austria was passing our frontiers, many went to see him—some out of curiosity, some out of gratitude to a Sovereign who is, by Treaty between the two Empires, the protector of Christianity in these provinces; and who would believe that our Turks would take offence at this, many of them having gone for the same purpose? Yet, for that reason some of those Christians met their death from the Turks, as Father Karaula at Livno; others have fled from their homes to foreign countries, others dare not go out of their houses for fear of the threats and snares of the Turks.

Now, how could the lives, the honour, and the property of the Christians, with the enjoyment of civil rights, be practically insured? How could the advanced gangrene of such abuses be cured? It would be necessary to change the nature of the Mussulman; it would be necessary to paralyze the blind fanaticism and the brutal haughtiness which upset everything. In deeds, and in deeds only, can the remedy be found. Promises made a thousand times over are but dust in the eyes. Clauses are illusions, the game of the crafty; they are worth no more than the paper on which they are written, if there be no strong and resolute hand able and willing to enforce respect for social order and the laws. The Powers have obtained guarantees on paper from the Ottoman Government in the clauses of the Hathumajun, but no security has, or ever will be, obtained in that way. Our Turks mock at such clauses and guarantees; they even abuse both law and Sultan in the coarsest manner, as well as the protecting Powers. They impose their orders on the miserable Rayah with execrable blasphemy and insulting words: I spit on your Christ, I am your law and your Emperor; and it appears that they are right in so expressing themselves, for the higher Turkish officials and the great men act as real emperors; whence it is quite common with our people to say, there are hundreds of emperors before you come to the Emperor himself. These men drain the people and empty the treasury. They intercept the complaints of the oppressed and will not suffer them to reach the ear of the Sovereign. Oh! how many unjust acts might be proved if the poor people dared to speak freely! Documents signed under pressure and fear are worthless. A thousand of such subscribed through false representations would be annihilated by the voice of truth. But woe to him who dares to advance the cause of truth and justice, who appeals to the observance of the laws! he is sure to feel the vengeance of those interested, even after the lapse of years; for he will either be cruelly beaten, or secretly slain, or he will be burnt in his house. Even now, many of those Christians who, in the time of Omar Pasha's wars, were faithful to the Sovereign, and gave a faithful account of the state of things in these provinces, are still the mark of vengeance, and pay the penalty of their loyalty. They have been, and are, watched and obstructed, therefore they try to make their way by fire and sword.

Gentlemen, it is impossible for the Turkish Government to apply a remedy now; long experience demonstrates this; the weakness and continual decline of the Government show it; and the constant and firm resistance of the Mahometans of the province shows it. The hope of a remedy from that quarter would be as delusive as it always has

been; our Turks would know well how to deceive the Sultan and the Powers by many arts and in many ways; they would know how to procure official documents in an unknown language with signatures and seals which would endanger the lives and the property of the Christians. They would even find not a few Christians in the city who would act with them against their co-religionists, just because they not unfrequently go shares with the Turks in their unlawful gains, and because they are not so heavily burdened with taxes as the poor Christians in the villages. We hope that this consultation of the Christian Powers on our misfortune will not be like that of the physicians on a desperate case and come to nothing.

In order to get out of this misery, to put an end to such sufferings, to free the Christians from the rule of the Turks and from continual oppression, to remove the fuel of the raging insurrection, and to ensure a durable peace, we find no other means than one of the following resolutions:—

1. The Christians are resolved to die rather than suffer such slavery, therefore they should be left to seek their liberation by arms, and if they are not assisted they have at least a right to have no obstacles put in the way of their enterprise, and to expect that no aid should be given to the oppressor.

2. Or we are forced to beg some Christian Power to grant us a corner of land so that we may all emigrate to it, and abandon this unhappy country so cursed with misfortunes.

3. Or the Powers should prevail on the Sultan to let an autonomous State be formed of Bosnia and Herzegovina, tributary to the Sultan, with some Christian Prince from elsewhere, but never from here.

4. Or finally (the minimum), let the Powers agree at once to put a strong body of troops from some neighbouring State into the principal cities of the Province, and let the representatives of the Powers enter the principal Medjlis as judges until things are put in order, and the lives, honour, and property of the Christians are rendered secure, with equality of civil and religious rights.

Herzegovina, September 17, 1875.

To the Representatives of the European Powers
in the Herzegovina.

No. 34.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 18.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 2, 1875.

THE Sultan has issued the inclosed Iradé sanctioning the abandonment of the additional $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. laid upon the tithes two years ago, and the remittance of all claims for arrears of taxes up to the year. The "fermiers et garants," who are excepted from the benefit of their remittance, are, I understand, not the cultivators of land, but the farmers of the tithes and their guarantees.

Measures are to be immediately taken for replacing the tithes by a land-tax.

The provision contained in the Organic Law of the Vilayets, but which has never been put into operation, is to be carried out, and deputations from each district are to be sent to Constantinople to make known the wishes of the local Councils, with the view to future reforms, and the different communities are to be properly represented in those Councils.

At the same time, special Controllers are to be sent to the provinces where necessary, to see that the taxes are equitably levied.

All these measures are calculated to be of the utmost benefit; but so great a change as an entire alteration of the system upon which the tithes are taken will require much consideration before it can be carried out.

On the other hand, the relief given by the sacrifice of the arrears and the extra $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. will be immediate.

I avail &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Imperial Iradé.

TOUS les sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan sans distinction sont l'objet constant de sa haute sollicitude et de son inépuisable bienveillance; ceux qui s'écartent de

la voie tracée par les devoirs de sujétion et qui se rendent coupables d'illégalité, ceux-là seuls seront privés de la jouissance de ses bienfaits et la faute en retombera sur eux.

Cette sollicitude impériale vient de se manifester une nouvelle fois à l'égard des populations agricoles si honnêtes et si paisibles de l'Empire. En premier lieu, il a été décrété l'exemption immédiate de ces populations du quart supplémentaire de la dîme, précédemment établie. En outre, tous les arriérés des impôts accumulés jusqu'à la date de l'année 1289 de l'Hégire ont été abandonnés à leur profit. La radiation des inscriptions de ces arriérés est ordonnée dans les registres au Trésor, et publication en sera donnée. Seront exceptés de cette mesure les fermiers, les garants, et les classes aisées pour leurs dettes envers le Trésor.

Les diverses communautés doivent être représentées au sein des Conseils Administratifs des provinces par des personnes de leur choix et jouissant réellement de leur confiance. Les avis émis par ces dernières, dans les limites de la légalité et du bon sens, seront prises en sérieuse considération.

Le principe d'après lequel une délégation était autorisée, conformément à la Loi Organique des Vilayets, à se rendre à Constantinople pour soumettre les demandes des Assemblées Générales Annuelles des Provinces, et qui était abandonné depuis quelque temps, a été remis en vigueur : des personnes honorables et jouissant de la considération de leurs communautés respectives seront appelées, non en masse, mais par groupes, des vilayets et des mutessarifats. Les informations que l'on aura recueillies, soit par cette voie, soit par d'autres moyens serviront de base aux réformes et aux modifications à adopter en vue de l'accroissement du bien-être, de la prospérité, et du progrès général.

Des agents et des contrôleurs spéciaux seront désignés selon la nécessité, pour assurer la répartition, et la perception des impôts conformément à la loi existante et aux règles de la justice.

Des ordres viennent d'être transmis à tous les vilayets pour la mise à exécution de ces mesures.

Des études sont entreprises en ce moment à l'effet d'établir un système de perception des dîmes sur les fonds de terre, basé sur la justice et propre à assurer la satisfaction des populations. De plus, on est à la recherche d'un mode fiscal uniforme en ce qui concerne les taxes. Il est décidé de réaliser au fur et à mesure ces réformes ainsi que celles qui regardent l'organisation de la gendarmerie.

Que la divine Providence accorde de longs jours à notre auguste et magnanime Souverain pour la gloire de l'Empire et le bonheur de ses sujets.

(For Translation, see p. 26.)

No. 35.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 24.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 15, 1875.

THE telegram, of which the copy is herewith inclosed, has been received by the Grand Vizier from Server Pasha, announcing the return to their homes of the inhabitants of seventeen villages, who had taken part with the insurgents, and some important successes obtained by the Imperial troops.

I sent this morning to the Grand Vizier to point out what a good opportunity was afforded by the return of these people to put into practice the measures to be adopted in their favour.

The district of Popova, to which they belong, lies between Klek and Trebigne, and I am told that in it many of the inhabitants are Catholics.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Server Pasha to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.)

IL résulte d'une lettre du Général Chevket Pacha que les habitants de dix-sept villages du Nahiyé de Popova sont venus faire leur soumission et ont été, par les soins des autorités, installés dans leurs foyers respectifs ; le retour dans leurs foyers de ces populations, qui avaient pris une part active à la révolte, est un commencement dont il faut se féliciter.

J'avais informé votre Altesse, en date du 25 courant, que d'après un télégramme du Consulat-Général de Raguse de l'arrivée du Général Chevket Pacha à Trebigné, et du succès qu'il avait obtenu sur les rebelles, il résulte d'une lettre dudit Général que par une tactique habile plus de 2,000 insurgés cernés par les troupes Impériales à Grap dans les environs de Ojanpitcha ont été défaits complètement. Les insurgés ont du s'enfuir et passer au Monténégro, laissant 160 morts sur le champs du combat.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

IT appears from a letter of General Chevket Pasha that the inhabitants of seventeen villages of the Nahiyé of Popova have come and made their submission, and, through the care of the authorities, have been installed in their respective houses; the return to their homes of these people, who had taken an active part in the revolt, is a happy beginning.

I had informed your Highness on the 25th instant that, according to a telegram from the Consulate-General at Ragusa, General Chevket Pasha had arrived at Trebigné, and had achieved a success over the rebels. It appears from a letter of the said General that, by clever strategy, over 2,000 insurgents have been surrounded by the Imperial troops at Grap, in the neighbourhood of Ojanpitcha, and completely routed. The insurgents were compelled to fly and to enter Montenegro, leaving 160 dead on the field of battle.

No. 36.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 25.)

My Lord, *Mostar, October* 14, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have addressed to Sir Henry Elliot respecting the affairs of the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, October* 11, 1875

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Server Pasha has published a Proclamation announcing the following reforms :—

Reorganisation of the Medjlis according to rules to be decided on.

The "aashr" or tithes to be taken on land; but as this will require some time to arrange, next year it will be sold before the crops are ripe, with regulations to insure its being fairly collected.

With regard to the tax on animals, they will be counted before proceeding to their summer pasturages.

Municipalities to be reformed, and the money belonging to them to be expended only for the benefit of the cadilik in which it is collected.

All laws, the decrees of the administration, and judgments of the tribunals will in future be translated into the Slav language.

The "komore," or requisition for horses for Government service, is abolished.

Each individual will be required to give twenty days' labour for road-making in five years, but only in his own cadilik; and except for road-making all forced labour for civil and military purposes is abolished.

Zaptiehs will in future be chosen from those who have accomplished their military service. In each district there will be special places for their accommodation, and they will not be allowed to quarter themselves on the peasantry.

Special employés will be appointed to collect taxes.

Registered contracts will in future be made between the Agas and their Christian dependents according to the Law of 1276 A.H. These contracts to be written and registered gratis. Neglect of this law will be punished by certain penalties.

A Committee of Inspectors, consisting of Turks, Greeks, and Catholics, to be named by the Vali and his coadjutor, will be appointed to control the proper execution of these regulations, and their reports will be presented for examination to the Vali and his coadjutor.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, October* 14, 1875.

I HAVE just been informed that the inhabitants of some eighteen villages, about sixty-eight families of Popovopolic, in the Cadilik of Stolatz, have returned to their homes.

These villages have hitherto escaped destruction, and the inhabitants have never entirely abandoned them, only taking refuge in the mountains when they imagined that danger was threatened. Their cattle are now returning from their summer pasturages, and they are anxious to obtain possession of them, which they could not do unless they declared that they would return to and remain in their villages.

No. 37.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

My Lord, *Mostar, October* 22, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, inclosing a copy of a translation of Server Pasha's "Instructions" regarding the reforms to be introduced in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, October* 18, 1875.

SERVER PASHA understands the necessity of immediate action regarding reforms. He promises immediately to appoint Christians to the police force, and also to higher positions, if he can find anybody competent.

I inclose copy of a translation of his Excellency's "Instructions" in full, of which I have already sent a résumé, with observations.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Instructions addressed by Server Pasha to the Civil Authorities of the Vilayet of Bosnia.

(Traduction.)

1. A PARTIR du 1 Mars de l'année 1876, tous les Medjliss des Sandjaks, Kadilouks, et villages seront institués à nouveau et choisis d'après des règles qui seront fixés plus tard.

2. Si la dîme frappait (c'est à dire, était convertie en un impôt à percevoir sur) les terres, cela serait beaucoup plus avantageux pour la population; c'est pourquoi le mode d'affermer l'impôt sera aboli, mais si le nouveau mode ne peut être mis en vigueur jusqu'à la prochaine récolte, les dîmes seront vendues dans les diverses parties de la province avant l'époque de la moisson.

3. Si ce terme est atteint sans que les dîmes aient été vendues, et que la faute en soit imputable à quelque employé, il sera aussitôt destitué de ses fonctions et mis en cause; dans le cas, au contraire, où les habitants en seraient la cause, quiconque aura occasionné du dommage à autrui sera passible d'une peine.

4. Tout fermier acquéreur des dîmes d'un village, et respectivement de celles d'un Kadilouk entier, devra commencer à les lever dans le premier cas cinq jours, et dans le second dix jours, après la date du contrat. S'il néglige de le faire, les anciens (chefs) du village inscriront la récolte de chacun, et il sera loisible à tout cultivateur d'enlever ce qui lui appartient. Le fermier qui voudra lever la dîme après l'expiration du terme susdit sera tenu d'accepter le registre d'inscription (tefter) qui lui sera présenté par les chefs du village, et il n'aura le droit de rien exiger outre ce qui sera marqué.

5. Les animaux soumis à une taxe seront comptés avant l'époque où on les mène dans la montagne, et la somme fixée d'après leur nombre devra être acquittée.

6. Les sujets du Sultan de toute classe et de toute religion peuvent en pleine liberté et securité vaquer à l'exercice de leur culte, et il est interdit à quiconque de porter en quoi que ce soit atteint à cette juste loi de l'Etat. Dans le cas où il sera contravenu à cette défense par quelque personne ne sachant pas distinguer le mal du bien, elle devra être aussitôt punie suivant la loi, et s'il arrivait que le Mudir du lieu ou tout autre fonctionnaire laissât passer le fait, lui aussi suivra le châtiment légal.

7. Partout où il existe un Conseil Municipal (Beledié) avec un revenu distinct, ainsi que cela est prévu dans le règlement spécial, le dit revenu ne pourra être dépensé hors de la localité. Cependant les subventions allouées aux écoles étant insuffisantes, il sera permis au Conseil de distraire de ce revenu la somme nécessaire aux écoles.

8. Le code est en général le guide de la conduite des employés, aussi chacun est-il tenu de le connaître. La loi et les règlements publics, tout ce qui est appelé du nom commun de "Destour," n'ayant point été traduit en langue vulgaire, il a été décidé qu'une commission serait formée à l'effet de travailler à cette traduction, laquelle sera rendu publique dès qu'elle aura été achevée.

9. Toutes les sentences rendues par les tribunaux seront munies d'une traduction dans une langue que le peuple pourra comprendre, et c'est au bas de cette traduction que le Président et les membres apposeront leur signature.

10. Les objets et articles appartenant à l'armée, ou autrement qu'ils proviennent de l'étranger ou de l'intérieure, ne pourront plus être transportés désormais par voie de réquisition, mais tous ceux qui volontairement offriraient leurs chevaux pour ce service seront payés d'avance, et si quelqu'un a une réclamation à présenter au sujet de ces chevaux, examen fait, ce qui est dû sera payé.

11. La population employée à la construction des routes ne sera plus tenue à travailler que dans le Kadilouk auquel elle appartient, et nul n'ira (travailler) hors de son Kadilouk ; cette obligation s'étend à vingt jours, et à rien de plus en cinq ans.

12. En dehors de ce qui concerne les routes, il est interdit d'employer gratuitement personne à aucuns travaux publics ou privés ; quiconque agirait contrairement à cette prescription sera sevèrement puni. De même ni les Multezims (fermiers de la dîme) ni personne autre ne pourront rien exiger (sans payement) à titre de boire ou de manger : quiconque oserait contrevenir à cette défense sera passible d'une peine.

13. Nul ne sera reçu dans le corps de zaptiés s'il n'a accompli son temps de service dans l'armée et dans la réserve (les redifs), et s'il n'est de bonne conduite et de bonnes mœurs.

14. Dans chaque Kadilouk les zaptiés auront leurs officiers pris dans une autre localité, et cela depuis le grade de sergent jusqu'au grade le plus élevé. Les officiers aussi bien que les hommes seront tenus de fournir un garant.

15. Les zaptiés étant affectés aux services civils ne seront plus en état de vaquer à d'autres affaires. En conséquence ils sont déchargés du devoir de percevoir les impôts : d'autres collecteurs (tahsildars), composés de Turcs, d'Orthodoxes, et de Catholiques, devant être institués à cet effet.

16. Ces collecteurs entreront en fonctions à partir du $\frac{1}{13}$ Mars de la prochaine année 1876 : leur mode de nomination et leurs devoirs seront réglés par une loi spéciale.

17. D'après la coutume en vigueur dans le Gouvernement de Bosnie, en général les rapports sont réglés de cette façon entre les propriétaires ("aghas") et les colons ("kmets") que ceux-ci donnent aux premiers la moitié, le tiers, le quart, ou le cinquième (des fruits) ; tous les colons qui ont convenus d'un tel partage des fruits ("dobodak") devront à l'avenir conclure un contrat aux termes du paragraphe 11 de la Loi de 1276.

18. Toutes les conventions verbales existantes et réglant ainsi la location des domaines à condition de partage des fruits devront, conformément au paragraphe précité, être converties en un contrat écrit, lequel sera dressé sans frais par les soins de l'autorité.

19. Le délai fixé pour la rédaction par écrit des conventions verbales, dont il vient d'être question, sera de six mois à partir de ce jour.

20. A l'expiration du terme susdit, si les deux parties ne se sont point entendues, et qu'au lieu de faire un contrat par écrit elles aient renouvelé les anciennes conventions verbales, le bailleur et le preneur seront frappés d'une amende égale au montant d'un impôt (c'est-à-dire, d'une année de l'impôt nouvellement établi sur les terres de 4 pour mille). Si le fait provenait du refus de l'une des parties, et que cela fût prouvé en justice, cette amende toute entière d'un impôt sera à la charge de la partie qui a refusé de conclure le contrat, l'amende sera versée en totalité dans la caisse de la municipalité et l'affaire durera tant que le contrat n'aura pas été dressé.

21. Lors de la réunion de la grande Commission, qui doit avoir lieu annuellement, tous

les membres pour les Sandjaks et les Kadilouks devront exercer leurs fonctions selon la loi, et exposer par écrit au Vali toutes les contraventions et injustices qui auraient été commises dans leurs arrondissements respectifs, en indiquant, ou, si besoin est, en célant le nom de la personne dont ils tiennent leurs informations. Le Vali soumettra chaque fait à la Commission, en l'invitant à donner une décision, à moins que cette décision ne fût pas de la compétence de la Commission, auquel cas le Tribunal du vilayet sera définitivement saisi de l'affaire.

22. A l'avenir aucun fonctionnaire ne pourra être privé de son emploi, à moins de faute commise, et s'il en commet quelqu'une il sera aussitôt mis en cause et puni selon la loi.

23. L'honorable Ibrahim Bey a été nommé adjoint du Vali de Bosnie; il remplira conformément aux lois ses importantes fonctions, en aidant le Vali à surveiller l'exécution exacte des lois et des décisions judiciaires, comme aussi la conduite des employés.

24. Il sera institué une Commission dont la tâche sera de contrôler les actes de l'administration publique; les résultats de ce contrôle ne seront connus que du Vali et de son adjoint.

25. Les membres de cette Commission seront pris parmi les Turcs, les Orthodoxes, et les Catholiques; ils seront choisis par le Vali et son adjoint, et prêteront le serment religieux de ne faire que des rapports exacts et véritables, après quoi leurs noms seront communiqués secrètement à la Sublime Porte.

26. Les fonctions de ce Comité consisteront à s'assurer des choses suivantes: (1.) Si la dîme a été vendue en temps utile. (2.) Quelle est la situation des fermiers de l'impôt, des habitants, et des Chefs ("Khodjabashis"). (3.) De quelle manière a lieu l'élection des membres des Medjliss, quels sont les rapports des propriétaires avec leurs colons, comment ont lieu la nomination des zaptiés et de leurs officiers, l'emploi des personnes pour le travail des routes, et s'il se commet quelque injustice à cette occasion. (4.) Quelle est la conduite des Mudirs, des Kaïmakams, et des Moutesarrifs, et la manière dont ils s'acquittent de leurs fonctions.

27. Ces surveillants ("mufetieh") consigneront le résultat de leurs investigations dans un rapport fait en double, signé de leur propre main, et dont ils remettront un exemplaire au Vali, tandis qu'ils garderont l'autre par devers eux.

28. A la réception du rapport des dits surveillants le premier devoir du Vali et de son adjoint est de faire aussitôt une enquête, et s'il est constaté qu'une contravention aux lois a été commise l'auteur en sera puni immédiatement.

29. On fait savoir à tous qu'il est émané au nom de Sa Majesté notre très gracieux Empereur un Ordre Suprême, par lequel il est interdit à quiconque de faire tort en quoi que ce soit à ses fidèles sujets; tous, au contraire, doivent trouver la même justice, et quiconque oserait enfreindre les présentes instructions, comme aussi les autres décrets qui pourront être publiés, ou négligerait de les faire exécuter, sera puni sans rétard, et rigoureusement, pour servir d'exemple aux autres.

Mostar, le $\frac{24 \text{ Septembre}}{6 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1875 (1291).

(L.S.) SERVER.
(L.S.) AHMED HAMDY.

(Translation.)

1. DATING from the 1st of March of the year 1876, all the Medjliss of the Sandjaks, Kadilouks, and villages, will be appointed afresh, and chosen according to rules to be fixed hereafter.

2. If the tithe were raised on the land (that is to say, were converted into a land-tax) it would be much more beneficial to the population; for this reason the method of farming the taxes will be abolished; but if the new system cannot be put into operation before the next harvest, the tithes are to be sold in the different parts of the province before the harvest season.

3. If this season is reached without the tithes having been sold, and the fault is traced to some employé, he will immediately be deprived of his employment, and will be prosecuted. On the other hand, supposing that the inhabitants are in fault, whoever shall have been the means of another's loss, shall be liable to a penalty.

4. Every contractor who farms the tithes of a village, or those of a whole Kadilouk, should, respectively, begin collecting them, in the first instance five days, and in the second ten days, after the date of the contract. If he neglects to do so, the elders (heads) of the village shall make a list of the crops of each person, and every cultivator will be allowed to take away what belongs to him. The contractor who wishes to collect the tithe after the expiration of the period above-mentioned, will be held to the acceptance of the registered

list (tefter), which will be offered him by the heads of the village, and he will have no right to claim anything more than what is inscribed therein.

5. Animals subject to taxation shall be counted previously to being taken to the hills, and the sum fixed according to their numbers must be paid.

6. The subjects of the Sultan of every class and religion can attend to the exercise thereof in full liberty and security, and no one is allowed to interfere with this just law of the State in any particular whatsoever. In the case of this prohibition being disregarded by any person not knowing the difference between good and evil, that person shall be at once punished according to the law, and should it happen that the Mudir of the place, or any other functionary, had passed the fact over, the law shall punish him also.

7. Wherever there is a Municipal Council (Beledié) with a separate revenue, as is provided for in the special rules, the said revenue must not be expended out of the district. Nevertheless, if the subventions allowed for schools prove insufficient, the Council may deduct from this revenue the sum necessary for the schools.

8. The Code is in general the guide for the conduct of the employés, and therefore all of them are bound to be acquainted with it. The law and the public regulations, *i.e.*, all that is included in the general term of "destour," not having been translated into the vulgar tongue, it has been decided that a Commission shall be formed to elaborate this translation, which shall be published when completed.

9. All sentences passed by the tribunals shall be accompanied by translations in a tongue understood by the people, beneath which translation the President and the members shall affix their signatures.

10. Objects and articles belonging to the army or otherwise, coming either from abroad or from the interior, shall no longer be transported by means of a requisition, but all those who shall voluntarily offer their horses for this service shall be paid in advance, and if any one has a claim to make with reference to such horses, on examination he shall receive what is due.

11. The population employed in construction of roads will only be called on to work in the Kadilouk to which they belong, and none shall go (to work) beyond their kadilouk; this obligation extends to twenty days, and no more, in a period of five years.

12. With the exception of road making, it is forbidden to employ any one gratuitously upon any public or private work; any one acting in opposition to this limitation will be severely punished. In the same way neither the multezims (farmers of the tithe) nor any one else shall be able to exact anything (without payment) in the shape of drink or food; anyone venturing to infringe this prohibition shall be liable to a fine.

13. No person shall be received into the corps of Zaptiés who has not served his full time in the army and in the reserve (the redifs), and who has not conducted himself well in every respect.

14. In every kadilouk the officers of the zaptiés shall be taken from some other locality, from the grade of sergeants to those of the highest rank. Officers as well as men will be called on to furnish a guarantee.

15. As the zaptiés are told off to civil duties, they will no longer be in a position to pay attention to other duties. Consequently they are released from the duty of collecting the taxes; other collectors (tahsildars), composed of Turks, orthodox Christians, and Catholics, being appointed for this purpose.

16. These collectors will commence their duties on the $\frac{1}{13}$ March of the coming year 1876; their mode of nomination and their duties will be regulated by a special law.

17. According to the custom in force in the Government of Bosnia, the terms are arranged as follows between the proprietors ("aghas") and the cultivators ("kmets"), the latter give the former the half, the third, the quarter, or the fifth (of the crops); and all the cultivators who have agreed to such a distribution of the crops ("dobodak") will for the future conclude a contract in the terms of the eleventh paragraph of the Law of 1276.

18. All verbal conventions at present in existence, thus regulating the renting of properties on the terms of a division of the produce, must, in accordance with the preceding paragraph, be converted into written contracts, to be drawn up, free of expense, under the care of the authorities.

19. The term of delay fixed to allow of the drawing up in writing of the verbal conventions in question shall be six months from this day's date.

20. At the expiration of the above-mentioned period, if the two parties have not come to an understanding, and if, instead of executing a written contract, they shall have renewed the old verbal conventions, the lessor and the lessee shall incur a fine equal to the amount of the tax for one year, that is to say, of the newly established toll on land of four per thousand. If the case should arise from the refusal of one of the parties, and this is

proved in a court of justice, this penalty of a tax shall devolve entirely on the party refusing to conclude the contract; the whole fine will be paid into the Municipal Treasury chest, and he will be liable to the same fine until the contract shall have been drawn up.

21. At the time of the meeting of the great Commission, which shall take place annually, all the members for the Sandjaks and the Kadilouks shall discharge their duties according to the law, and lay a written statement before the Vali of all the acts of lawlessness and injustice committed in their respective districts, indicating, or, if needful, concealing, the name of their informants. The Vali will submit each case to the Commission, and invite a decision, unless such decision should be beyond the competence of the Commission, in which case the matter will be definitively brought before the Tribunal of the Vilayet.

22. In future no functionary shall be discharged from his employment, except for the commission of a fault, and in such a case he shall at once be proceeded against and punished according to the law.

33. The Honourable Ibrahim Bey has been named assistant to the Vali of Bosnia; he will be guided by the law in the fulfilment of his important functions, in aiding the Vali to superintend the punctual execution of the laws and of judicial decisions, as also in watching over the conduct of the *employés*.

24. A Commission will be appointed, whose duty it will be to control the acts of the public administration; the results of this control will only be made known to the Vali and his assistant.

25. The members of this Commission will be selected from among the Turks, the orthodox Christians, and the Catholics: they will be chosen by the Vali and his assistant, and will take a sacred oath to make exact and true reports only, after which their names will be communicated secretly to the Sublime Porte.

26. The duties of this committee will consist in ascertaining the following points:—

(1.) Whether the tithe was sold at the proper time.

(2.) What are the positions of the farmers of the taxes, of the inhabitants, and of chiefs ("khodjabashis").

(3.) The manner in which the election of the members of the Medjliss was carried out. What are the relations between the proprietors and the cultivators? The way of nominating the zaptiés and their officers, the employment of people for working on the roads, and whether any injustice is practised in this respect.

(4.) The nature of the behaviour of the Mudirs, Kaïmakams, and the Mouteserrifs, and the manner in which they discharge their duties.

27. These superintendents ("mufetieh") will draw up a Report in duplicate of the result of their investigations, will sign it themselves, and transmit one copy to the Vali and keep the other copy themselves.

28. On receipt of the reports of the said superintendents, the first duty of the Vali and of is assistant will be to make an immediate inquiry, and if it is proved that any infringement of the laws has been committed, the author thereof shall be immediately punished.

29. Notice is given to all that a Supreme Order has been issued in the name of His Majesty our very Gracious Emperor, by which all are forbidden to injure in any respect any of his faithful subjects; all, on the contrary, shall have the same justice, and any one daring to infringe the present instructions, or any other decrees which may be published, or neglecting to execute them, shall be punished severely, and without delay, as an example to others.

Mostar, $\frac{\text{September } 24}{\text{October } 6}$, 1875 (1291).

(L.S.) SERVER.
(L.S.) AHMED HAMDY.

No. 38.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, October* 20, 1875.

THE nomination of Reouf Pasha as Governor-General of Bosnia is, perhaps, the best that could have been made.

When Governor-General of Crete he rendered himself equally popular with Mussulmans and Christians, and his administration of the province of Bagdad was not less successful.

Reouf Pasha's unusual activity and habit of looking into things for himself will be especially beneficial at the present moment.

No. 39.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 23, 1875.*

THE manner in which the tithes on agricultural produce are taken, and the exclusive employment in the collection of the taxes of Turkish policemen, whose arrogance towards the Christians is often excessive, have constituted two of the most serious and real grievances complained of in the Provinces.

The Grand Vizier has, moreover, informed me that the conversion of the tithes into a land tax is immediately to be carried out in the vilayet of the Danube, where also Christians are to be taken into the police, and employed in the collection of the taxes.

I take this opportunity of inclosing the copy of a vizirial letter, ordering the more correct observance of the law for the organization of the vilayets, especially as regards the election of the members of the local Councils, and their position when elected.

If all the measures are fairly carried out a very decided improvement in the administration and condition of the Provinces must result from them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Circular of the Grand Vizier to the Governors-General of the Provinces of the Empire, dated October $\frac{5}{17}$, 1875.

(Traduction.)

DANS la Circulaire en date du 2 Ramazan, 1292, que j'ai adressée à votre Excellence d'ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, je vous ai particulièrement recommandé la formation des Conseils d'Administration, en veillant à ce que les membres qui les composeront soient réellement les élus de diverses classes de la population jouissant de leur confiance, et que les avis émis par les membres de ces Conseils soient pris en considération.

J'attire aujourd'hui davantage votre attention sur cet objet. Vous n'ignorez pas que le pouvoir exécutif, c'est-à-dire, les Valis dans les chefs lieux, et les Mutessarifs et les Caïmacams dans les districts et les cantons, ont en principe deux sortes d'attributions, dont l'une consiste à administrer directement des affaires de leur ressort, et l'autre à agir conformément aux décisions des conseils administratifs, lesquelles seront le résultat final de leurs délibérations après que les avis des membres auront été recueillis.

Des règlements spéciaux ayant déjà défini les matières qui sont du ressort direct des agents du pouvoir exécutif, et celles qu'ils devront résoudre avec le concours du Medjlis, il sera superflu d'en parler.

Ce qui mérite d'être signalé ici à votre attention c'est que :

1. L'élection des membres du Conseil Administratif devra se faire strictement en conformité de la loi établie. Ce résultat ne peut être acquis qu'en abandonnant complètement l'usage nuisible de composer les Medjlis par des personnes favorisées ou par des partisans. Les membres de ces Conseils seront nommés par le choix libre des personnes qui seront convoquées pour procéder à leur élection. Les candidats jouiront de la confiance et de la considération de leurs communautés respectives.

2. Les avantages qu'on a en vue en créant ces Medjlis ne peuvent être assurés que par l'expression loyale et sincère des avis des membres présents. Aucun membre donc ne devra prétendre à faire prédominer son avis, ni à exercer une pression quelconque.

Il est donc formellement interdit aux fonctionnaires qui se trouvent à la tête du pouvoir exécutif d'intervenir dans les délibérations du Conseil et de le dominer.

Le président ne se distingue des autres membres que par son droit de former la majorité, lorsqu'il y a partage de voix. Il s'en suit donc qu'en général il n'a toujours qu'une seule voix.

3. Tous les membres d'un Conseil, à quelque classe et quelque religion qu'ils appartiennent, font partie d'un même corps, et ont tous le droit dans les limites de la légalité d'exprimer leurs pensées selon leur conviction et leur conscience.

En un mot, ni le rang, ni la position, ni la religion des membres ne pourront établir, d'aucune manière, de distinctions entre eux.

Aucun avis émis par les membres ne devra être dédaigné ni méprisé.

Tels sont les ordres de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

En conséquence, votre Excellence est invitée à veiller continuellement à ce que ces ordres soient rigoureusement observés dans toutes les parties de la province placée sous sa juridiction.

Sublime Porte, le 21 *Octobre,* 1875.

(Translation.)

IN the Circular dated the 2nd Ramazan, 1292, which I addressed to your Excellency by the order of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, I particularly directed your attention to the formation of the Councils of Administration, and to taking care that the Members composing them are really the selections of the different classes of the population, and enjoy their confidence, and also that the opinions enunciated by the Members of those Councils are taken into consideration.

I draw your attention again to-day to this matter. You are aware that the Executive Power, that is to say, the Valis in the principal towns, and the Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams in the districts and cantons, have in principle two kinds of functions, of which one consists in administering directly matters within their jurisdiction, and the other in acting in accordance with the decisions of the Administrative Councils, which decisions shall be the final result of their deliberations after the opinions of the Members have been taken.

As special regulations have already defined the matters which belong to the direct jurisdiction of the Agents of the Executive Power, and those which they have to determine with the assistance of the Medjliss, it is superfluous to speak of them.

That to which it is requisite to draw your attention here is that—

1. The election of Members of the Administrative Council shall be carried on strictly in accordance with established law. This result can only be obtained by completely giving up the injurious custom of filling up the Medjlis with favoured persons or partisans. The Members of these Councils shall be nominated by the free choice of the persons convoked for the purpose of their election. The candidates should enjoy the confidence and the consideration of their respective communities.

2. The advantages contemplated by the creation of these Medjlis can only be ensured by the loyal and sincere expression of the opinions of the members present. No member, therefore, shall claim to make his own opinion prevail, nor exercise any pressure.

All functionaries at the head of the Executive Power are, therefore, formally forbidden to interfere in the deliberations of the Council, or to direct them.

The only difference between the President and the other Members is his right to give a casting vote, when the votes are equally divided. Hence it follows that generally speaking he has only one vote.

3. All the members of a Council, to whatever class or religion they belong, form part of one and the same body, and all have the right, within the limits of the law, of expressing their thoughts according to their conviction and conscience.

In a word, neither the rank, nor position, nor religion of the members shall establish any distinction of any kind between the members.

No opinion enunciated by the members shall be disdained or spurned.

Such are the orders of His Majesty the Sultan.

Consequently, your Excellency is requested to watch continually over the rigorous observance of these orders in all parts of the province placed under your jurisdiction.

Sublime Porte, October 21, 1875.

No. 40.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, October* 26, 1875.

UPON receiving Mr. Consul Holmes' telegraphic report of the massacre which had occurred among some of the Christian refugees on their return to the Herzegovina, I immediately sent Mr. Sandison to represent to Safvet Pasha and the Grand Vizier the necessity of making a summary example of those who had been guilty of this atrocity.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of Mr. Sandison's Report, stating that the Grand

Vizier had promised at once to send orders to Reouf Pasha for the immediate execution of the Aghas, and of such other persons as should be found guilty of the massacre.

When Mr. Sandison spoke to Safvet Pasha, the Porte appeared to have received no intimation of what had occurred.

Your Lordship will at once perceive the unfortunate results which may follow this deplorable incident.

I understand that the information received by the Russian Embassy puts the number of victims of this outrage at twelve, and I have telegraphed to Mr. Consul Holmes to let me have any authentic details which he can obtain.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, October 25, 1875.*

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions I communicated to-day to Safvet Pasha Mr. Holmes' telegram respecting the massacre of some of the Christians who had returned to their homes from Dalmatia.

His Excellency having expressed much regret and surprise at the occurrence, as likely to lead to unpleasant consequences, inasmuch as the troops which had accompanied the Aghas, the perpetrators of the crime, seem to have done nothing to prevent it, confined himself to merely telegraphing to Server Pasha for information on the subject.

The Grand Vizier, however, whom I saw later in the afternoon, expressed himself in favour of immediate action, and, agreeably with your Excellency's suggestion, told me he would telegraph at once to Reouf Pasha, ordering the summary execution of the Aghas and of such others as may be found guilty of the massacre in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED SANDISON.

No. 41.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 10, 1875.*

I APPROVE the steps which your Excellency took on hearing of the massacre of the Christian refugees on their return to Herzegovina, as reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 42.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

My Lord, *Mostar, October 25, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herein a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador regarding the flight of the population of Poporopolie to Dalmatia. This is a most serious event, and will probably greatly increase the difficulties of the situation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot

(Extract.) *Mostar, October 23, 1875.*

TWO gentlemen arrived here last night, and informed me that they had met great numbers of Christians, inhabitants of Poporopolie, taking refuge in Dalmatia. In a previous despatch I announced to your Excellency that these people were returning to their homes,

and I explained the circumstances, and that two battalions had been appointed to protect them. The above-named gentlemen state that they made inquiries as to the cause of this emigration, and learnt that some of the Agas among the Bashi-Bozouks who accompanied the troops had, from motives of vengeance, killed several of the Christians, and that the whole population of Poporopolie had in consequence fled to Dalmatia. Of course, the effect of this will be to prevent those who wish to return to their homes from doing so, and will further increase their distrust and fear of the Turks.

No. 43.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1875.

AS the gravity of the political situation has undoubtedly been much aggravated by rumours, to which the impression that the Austrian Government are concerting some scheme in regard to the Herzegovina without consultation with the Powers parties to the Treaty of 1856, has given rise, Her Majesty's Government have received with much satisfaction the assurance, reported in your telegraphic despatch of yesterday, to have been made to you by Baron Hofmann, that the Austrian Government have nothing to conceal from England, and his invitation to your Excellency to ask for explanations of any reports that may be in circulation as to the intentions of his Government.

Your Excellency will take an opportunity of speaking in this sense to Baron Hofmann.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 44.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 12, 1875.

THE inclosed is the copy of the instructions of the Porte to Server Pasha, as they have been communicated to me.

They certainly confer upon him the authority to introduce very material reforms in the administration of the revolted provinces; but they require to be applied with energy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Instructions addressed to all the high Functionaries residing in Bosnia.

DANS les chefs-lieux du vilayet, dans ses districts, et les villages les Conseils seront supprimés à partir du mois de Mars, 1292, et remplacés par d'autres, dont les membres seront élus conformément au règlement admis pour les élections.

Etant jugé plus avantageux dans l'intérêt de la population agricole de percevoir les dîmes sur le produit des terres cultivées, il vient d'être décidé que l'usage d'affermer soit aboli, et si jusqu'à l'époque de la récolte de l'année prochaine cette nouvelle mesure ne peut pas être mise en exécution, alors les charges de perception de dîmes seront acquittés entièrement avant l'entrée de l'époque de la moisson, dans tout le parcours du vilayet.

Si cette tâche n'est pas remplie à l'époque sus-indiquée, les personnes qui en seront causes seront relevées de leurs fonctions et comparaîtront par devant le Tribunal compétent, si elles sont des employés du Gouvernement Impérial; si, au contraire, elles sont des particuliers, alors celles-là seront punis conformément à l'Article de la Loi qui prévoit le cas de responsabilité des dommages portés aux intérêts publics.

Si le fermier (multezim) ne commence pas à percevoir la dîme qu'il aura affermée dans les cinq premiers jours, s'il s'agit d'un village, et dans les dix premiers jours s'il s'agit d'un cazas, à dater du jour de son engagement, alors la quantité de la reproduction de chaque particulier sera inscrite dans un registre par le Conseil des Vieillards ("Ikhtiar Medglessi") de l'endroit; après cette formalité ordre sera donné pour moissonner, et s'il se présente après cette date un nouveau fermier pour percevoir la dîme, dans ce cas

celui-ci se rapportera entièrement au registre dressé par le susdit Conseil des Vieillards, et n'aura pas le droit de pousser ses réclamations au delà du montant des chiffres arrêtés.

Les moutons seront tondus avant d'entrer dans les lieux de pâturage.

La liberté des cultes étant garantie à tous les sujets du Sultan sans distinction de race, par les lois fondamentales de l'Empire, il est bien entendu que personne ne pourra créer d'obstacle au libre cours de ce droit légitime de chaque individu sans commettre une faute grave à l'égard de la sollicitude Impériale; si donc parmi les employés de l'autorité, ou parmi les Sous-Gouverneurs ou les personnes jouissant des fonctions plus élevées, quelqu'un se hasarde de contrevenir à la volonté expresse de Sa Majesté notre gracieux Souverain, en portant atteinte à la liberté des cultes, celui-là sera sévèrement puni, conformément au Code Pénal.

Les rentes affectées aux Conseils Municipaux de chaque endroit ont pour but l'embellissement de la ville, l'entretien de sa propriété, et enfin son agrandissement; il est défendu, par conséquent, ainsi qu'il est prévu dans le règlement, d'en faire emploi pour tout ce qui soit du cercle des dépenses de ce département. Néanmoins, dans le cas où les rentes affectées pour l'administration des écoles primaires ne seraient pas suffisantes, alors on pourra suppléer à cette insuffisance par les sommes excédantes des susdites rentes des Conseils Municipaux.

Les lois et règlements devant être connus indistinctement par tout le monde, tant par les fonctionnaires que par le public, afin de régler leur conduite en conséquence, le Gouvernement Impérial vient de décider d'offrir des facilités pour que la connaissance de ces lois et règlements fût accessible à l'intelligence publique, en créant dans le chef-lieu du vilayet un bureau de traduction chargé de reproduire en langue du pays toutes les lois et règlements qui composent le Destour. Cette traduction sera imprimée et affichée.

Afin de faciliter l'exécution des sentences rendues par les Tribunaux Civils, l'esprit de toute sentence rendue sera désormais traduit en une langue qui soit intelligible au public. Cette traduction sera également signée par le Président et les Juges.

Il est expressément défendu d'employer des chevaux et d'autres bêtes de charge appartenant aux particuliers pour le transport de l'extérieur à l'intérieur, ou d'un point à l'autre dans l'intérieur de la ville, de tous effets ou provisions appartenant à l'armée Impériale ou à l'autorité locale, à moins que les propriétaires les sollicitassent de leur propre gré. Mais dans ce cas il faut que le prix convenu pour la location de ces bêtes fût payé par anticipation à leurs propriétaires, et si jusqu'à présent des réclamations semblables sont restées pendantes jusqu'à ce jour, on devra sans retard constater leur légitimité et les régler sans objection aucune.

On ne devra jamais employer des ouvriers étrangers pour l'exploitation des routes d'un cazas, mais bien ceux qui habitent le même cazas, et le nombre de jours que les ouvriers travailleront gratis n'excédera jamais le chiffre vingt pour chaque cinq ans.

En dehors de l'exploitation des routes, il est défendu d'employer gratis des ouvriers pour le service de l'Etat ou d'un particulier; les contrevenants à cette décision seront rigoureusement punis. Il est de même défendu aux fermiers (multezim) et autres d'exiger de la population, sous quelque prétexte que ce soit, de la nourriture pour eux et pour les chevaux. Tous ceux qui seraient cités comme ayant commis une injustice semblable subiront également les peines édictées par la loi.

Les personnes inscrites pour appartenir au corps des sergents (zaptiés) seront des gens qui jouissent d'une bonne réputation, et ayant déjà servi comme soldat ou comme volontaire ou rédif. Dans un cazas les officiers du corps des sergents qui ont des grades supérieures à celui de " tchavouche " seront choisis sans contredit parmi les natifs ou habitants d'un autre cazas. Ces officiers, ainsi que leurs subalternes, seront tenus en même temps de donner caution pour leur personne.

Les officiers supérieurs et inférieurs, les zaptiés et autres militaires qui sont au service de l'Etat, ne pouvant suffire pour remplir à la fois leurs fonctions propres et celles des affaires civiles, il vient d'être arrêté que désormais les receveurs (tahsildar) composé de Musulmans et de Chrétiens fussent choisis pour percevoir les impôts dûs à l'Etat.

Les receveurs précités seront nommés et exerceront leurs fonctions à partir du mois de Mars de l'année prochaine, soit 1292. Un règlement spécial désignant les charges et la conduite de ces derniers sera bientôt porté à la connaissance publique.

Dans les villes principales de la Bosnie, toutes les fermes qui se louaient et se souslouaient suivant l'usage du compte à demi, à tiers, au quart, et au cinquième, ne pourront être louées ni souslouées qu'après rédaction, par devant l'autorité locale, du contrat préalable, et cela conformément à l'Article 11 du Règlement décrété en l'an 1276.

Quant aux fermes qui ont été jadis louées ou sous-louées sans le contrat en question, mais seulement par engagement verbal, les propriétaires et locations de ces fermes s'adresseront aussi à l'autorité locale pour passer le contrat exigé par l'Article ci-dessus, et légaliser ainsi leurs engagements verbaux. Dans ce cas cette forme de régularisation leur sera accordée gratis par la dite autorité.

Pour l'application de l'Article précité, le Gouvernement Impérial fixe un délai de six mois, à partir de la présente date.

S'il arrive qu'après l'expiration du susdit délai, par la rélaxation des parties, les anciens engagements verbaux ne sont pas confirmés par des contrats exigés ou que de nouveaux engagements dans ce genre se restèrent contrairement au nouveau règlement, alors l'impôt à percevoir sur la ferme louée ou sous-louée sera exigée par compte moitié du propriétaire et du locataire; mais s'il est constaté et prouvé par devant un tribunal compétent que l'une des parties contractantes s'est refusée, à elle seule, de se conformer à ce mode, alors l'impôt supplémentaire sera perçu entièrement par cette partie contrevenante, pour passer au profit de la caisse de la municipalité de la ville. Cette mesure sera prise jusqu'à la date de la rédaction du contrat.

Chaque année, à la même époque, il sera constitué dans le chef-lieu du vilayet une Assemblée Générale composée du Conseil d'Administration et des délégués membres des Conseils des arrondissements et cazas, qui auront spécialement la charge de présenter un rapport au Gouverneur-Général pour lui faire savoir si les lois et règlements ont été strictement observés pendant toute la durée de l'année écoulée, ou que par contre des injustices ont été commises.

Dans le rapport d'un délégué, s'il s'agit d'une injustice quelconque commise au préjudice des intérêts d'un particulier, dans ce cas, si le fait en question relève de la compétence du jugement de la dite Assemblée Générale, le Gouverneur déférera l'affaire à la délibération de cette Assemblée; une circonstance pareille laisse au choix du Vali de nommer à la susdite Assemblée ou non, la personne qui lui aura rapporté par son rapport la nature et le degré de l'injustice ou vexation commise, et si le fait en question n'est pas de la compétence du jugement du Conseil, alors communication immédiate en sera donnée à la Sublime Porte par le Gouverneur-Général.

Désormais aucun employé du Gouvernement Impérial ne sera destitué. Mais si un employé se rend coupable en manquant à ses devoirs il lui faudra alors comparaître par devant le Tribunal compétent, qui le jugera et lui appliquera la peine méritée, suivant la gravité de sa culpabilité.

Son Excellence Ibrahim Bey, notable de l'Empire, vient d'être nommé Mouavin (aide) du Gouverneur-Général. Les fonctions confiées à son Excellence ont pour objet la surveillance de la stricte exécution des lois et règlements; l'observation de la conduite des Tribunaux, et celle de tous les fonctionnaires; les efforts nécessaires pour écarter autant que possible les motifs d'une injustice quelconque.

Un Comité de Surveillance chargé de toute vérification tendant à observer minutieusement la marche de l'administration sera constitué dans le chef-lieu du vilayet, et sera attaché spécialement au service du Gouverneur-Général et de son Mouavin (aide).

Les membres du susdit Comité appartiendront à la religion Musulmane et Chrétienne, et seront élus par le Gouverneur-Général et de son aide, lesquels leur imposeront serment à chacun d'après le rite de sa religion, avant de leur confier leurs fonctions, afin que ceux-ci garantissent de cette manière la franchise et l'impartialité qu'il leur faut user dans leurs rapports sur la situation de toutes les affaires.

Le Comité de Surveillance aura les charges suivantes:—

1. Porter à la connaissance du Gouverneur-Général et à son Mouavin si l'encaissement des dîmes a été ou non confiée en temps utile.

2. Si les fermiers (multezim), les chefs d'euphorie de la ville, les chefs spirituels (Kodjabachi), se conduisent comme ils le doivent.

3. Si l'élection des membres des Conseils a été régulièrement formée.

4. Si les rapports entre les paysans et leurs contractants sont ou non en bonne harmonie.

5. Si on commet des injustices à l'égard des personnes qui travaillent pour l'exploitation des routes.

6. Si les zaptiés et autres militaires observent les instructions qui leur sont données.

7. Si, enfin, dans les bourgs, villages, et mutessarifliks, les fonctionnaires remplissent fidèlement ou non les devoirs qui leur sont imposés.

Après délibération mûre, les membres du susdit Comité dresseront un rapport en copie double sur la situation des affaires. L'une de ces copies sera présentée au

Gouverneur-Général et à son aide, et l'autre sera conservée par les membres du Comité.

Quand un rapport présenté par le susdit Comité mentionnera une injustice commise, ou une irrégularité dans l'administration, et si, vérification faite, l'on parvient à constater la chose, dans ce cas l'auteur de cette injustice et de cette irrégularité sera puni et corrigé de la part du Gouverneur-Général et de son aide (Mouavin).

Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, dans sa constante sollicitude, veut que tous ses sujets sans distinction jouissent des bienfaits de la justice et ne soient jamais opprimés par des vexations. Elle désire par conséquent que toutes les lois et règlements, ainsi que les instructions ci-dessus, fussent entièrement et strictement observées. Si donc quelqu'un ose se permettre de contrevenir tant à ces lois et instructions présentes qu'à celles à venir, ou qui entrave la marche de la justice, ou qui prépare des intrigues dans ce but, celui-là sera sans merci puni rigoureusement pour servir d'exemple au public.

En vous prévenant d'avance nous vous conseillons d'agir en conséquence.

(Translation.)

IN the chief towns of the vilayet, in its districts, and in the villages, the Councils will be suppressed from the month of March, 1292, and will be replaced by others, of which the members will be elected in accordance with the regulations settled upon for the elections.

As it is judged more beneficial in the interests of the agricultural population to collect the tithes on the produce of cultivated lands, it has just been decided that the practice of farming the taxes shall be abolished, and if this new measure cannot be put into execution before the harvest time of the coming year, then the charges of collection of the tithes shall be entirely discharged before the commencement of the time of harvest, in all the extent of the vilayet.

If this task is not accomplished at the time above-mentioned, the persons who are the cause thereof will be discharged from their duties, and will have to appear before the proper tribunal, if they are employés of the Imperial Government; if, on the contrary, they are private persons, then they shall be punished in accordance with the Article of the Law which makes provision in case of responsibility for losses occasioned to the public interests.

If the collector (multezim) does not begin to collect the tithe which he has farmed in the first five days in case of a village, and in the first ten days in the case of a cazas, dating from the day of his engagement, then the amount of reproductive power of each private individual will be inscribed in a register by the Council of Elders ("Ikhtiar Medglessi") of the place; after this formality, orders will be given to reap the harvest; and if after this date, a new collector presents himself to collect the tithe, in that case the latter shall be referred entirely to the register drawn up by the above-mentioned Council of Elders, and shall have no right to push his demands beyond the amount of the sums fixed therein.

The sheep shall be shorn before entering the pastures.

Freedom of worship being guaranteed to all the subjects of the Sultan, without distinction of race, by the fundamental laws of the Empire, it is well understood that no one can raise an obstacle to the free enjoyment of this legitimate right of each individual without committing a serious fault with respect to the Imperial solicitude; if, therefore, among the official employés, or among the sub-governors, or among the persons employed in higher offices, any one ventures to oppose the express will of His Majesty our gracious Sovereign, by infringing on the freedom of worship, he shall be severely punished according to the penal code.

The funds assigned to the Municipal Councils of each place have for object the embellishment of the town, the keeping of its property in repair, and, lastly, its aggrandisement; it is forbidden, consequently, as provided for in the regulation, to expend them on any object outside the expenses of this department. Nevertheless, in case of the revenue assigned for the administration of the elementary schools not being sufficient, then this deficiency may be supplied by surplus sums from the above-mentioned funds of the Municipal Councils.

As the laws and regulations should be recognized indiscriminately by everyone, by officials as well as by the public, so that they may regulate their conduct thereby, the Imperial Government has just decided that facilities shall be afforded for the public to become acquainted with these laws and regulations, by the creation in the chief town of the vilayet of a translator's office, charged to reproduce in the language of the country,

all the laws and regulations composing the Destour. Such translation will be printed and placarded.

To facilitate the execution of the sentences passed by the Civil Tribunals, the substance of each sentence delivered shall be henceforth translated into a language intelligible to the public. This translation will be signed by both the President and the Judges.

The employment of horses and other beasts of burden belonging to private individuals for the transport from the exterior to the interior, or from one point to another in the town, of all effects or provisions belonging to the Imperial army, or to the local authorities, is expressly forbidden, unless requested by the owners of their own accord. But in this case the price agreed on for the hiring of these animals must be paid in advance to the owners, and if hitherto claims of this kind have remained unsettled up to the present time, their legality should without delay be proved and they should be settled without any objection.

Foreign workmen shall never be employed for working on the roads of a cazas, but only such as inhabit the same cazas, and the number of days they work gratis shall never exceed twenty out of every five years.

With the exception of working the roads, the employment of workmen gratis for the for the service of the State or of a private individual is forbidden; people infringing this decision will be rigidly punished. In the same way farmers (multezim) and others are forbidden to demand from the population, under any pretext whatever, food for themselves or their horses. All those summoned for having committed a similar act of injustice will without distinction undergo the penalties prescribed by the law.

Persons on the roll for belonging to the corps of sergeants (zaptiés) shall be such as bear a good reputation, and have already served in the regular army, or as volunteers or rédifs. In a cazas the officers of the corps of sergeants, of superior rank to that of "tchavouche," shall be chosen without exception from the natives or inhabitants of another cazas. These officers, as well as their subalterns, will be expected to give some personal security.

As the superior officers and those of lower rank, the zaptiés and other military men in the service of the State, cannot both discharge military duties and also attend to civil matters, it has been resolved that henceforth receivers (tahsildar) composed of Mussulmans and Christians, shall be selected to collect the taxes due to the State.

These receivers shall be nominated and enter upon their duties from the month of March of next year, 1292. A special regulation specifying the duties and line of conduct of these last-named officials will soon be made known to the public.

In the chief towns of Bosnia, all farms let and sublet according to agreement at a half, a third, a fourth, or a fifth, can only be let or sublet after the drawing up before the local authority of a preliminary contract, in accordance with the 11th Article of the Regulation decreed in 1276.

With respect to farms hitherto let or sublet without the contract in question, but simply by a verbal engagement, the proprietors and tenants of these farms must likewise apply to the local authorities to enter into the contract required by the above Article, and thus to legalise their verbal engagements. In such a case this form of authentication will be granted to them gratis by the said authorities.

The Imperial Government fixes a delay of six months from the present date for the application of the aforesaid Article.

If it happens at the expiration of the above-mentioned period that, through the remissness of the parties concerned, the old verbal engagements have not been confirmed by the requisite contracts, or that new engagements of this kind should exist in opposition to the new regulation, then the tax to be collected on the farm let or sublet shall be demanded conjointly from the proprietor and the tenant; but if it be established and proved before a competent tribunal, that one of the contracting parties has refused, on his own and separate responsibility, to conform to this measure, then the supplementary tax shall be wholly collected from the offending party, and carried to the account of the Municipal Treasury of the town. This action will be taken up to the date of the drawing up of the contract.

Every year, at the same date, a General Assembly shall be called in the chief town of the vilayet, which shall be composed of the Council of Administration, and of the delegates, members of the councils of the districts and cazas, whose special duty it will be to present a report to the Governor-General, informing him whether the laws and regulations have been strictly observed during the whole of the past year, or whether, on the contrary, acts of injustice have been committed.

If, in the report of a delegate, there is question of some injustice having been done

to the interests of a private individual, then, if the matter is within the competency of the said General Assembly, the Governor shall refer the matter to the deliberation of this Assembly. Under such circumstances, it shall be left to the option of the Vali to nominate to the aforesaid Assembly the individual who reported the nature and degree of the injustice or damage committed; and if the matter in question is not within the competency of the Council, then immediate communication thereof shall be made to the Sublime Porte by the Governor-General.

Henceforth no employé of the Imperial Government will be dismissed. But if an employé is culpable of neglecting his duties, he must appear before the competent Tribunal, who will try him and pass the required sentence upon him, according to the seriousness of his offence.

His Excellency Ibrahim Bey, a noble of the Empire, has been appointed "Mouavin" (Assistant) of the Governor-General. The duties entrusted to his Highness involve the superintendence of the strict execution of the laws and regulations, the careful observation of the way in which the Tribunals are conducted, and of the behaviour of all the officials; lastly, the endeavours necessary to avert as much as possible the motives for any injustice.

A Committee of Supervision charged with verifying everything tending to the minute observance of the conduct of the Administration, will be appointed in the chief town of the Villaget, and will be specially attached to the service of the Governor-General and his "Mouavin" (Assistant).

The Members of the Committee named above shall belong to the Mussulman and Christian religions, and shall be elected by the Governor-General and his assistant, to whom they will take an oath according to their respective religions, before entering on their functions, so that in this manner they may give guarantees of the frankness and impartiality which they must employ in their reports on the position of affairs.

The Committee of Supervision will be charged with the following duties:—

1. To acquaint the Governor-General and his Assistant whether the collection of the tithes was or was not made at a favourable season.

2. Whether the Farmers ("Multezims,") the Heads of the Town ("d'euphorie,") the Ecclesiastical Heads ("Kodjabachi,") behave as they should.

3. Whether the election of the Members of the Councils has been carried on with regularity.

4. Whether the relations between the peasants and their employers are good or not.

5. Whether acts of injustice are committed with respect to the workers on the roads.

6. Whether the zaptiés, and other military officials, observe the instructions given them.

7. Whether lastly, in the towns, villages, and mutessarifliks, the officials perform faithfully or not the duties entrusted to them.

After due deliberation the Members of the above-mentioned Committee will draw up a report in duplicate on the position of affairs, One of these copies will be laid before the Governor-General and his Assistant, and the other kept by the Members of the Committee.

When a report presented by the above-named Committee shall make mention of an act of injustice committed, or of an irregularity of administration, and if, on inquiry, the affair is proved, in such a case the author of this injustice or irregularity will suffer punishment and correction at the hands of the Governor-General and of his Assistant ("Mouavin.")

His Imperial Majesty the Sultan in his constant solicitude, wishes all his subjects indiscriminately to enjoy the benefits of justice, and never to be harrassed. He desires consequently that all laws and regulations, as well as the aforesaid instructions, be entirely and strictly observed. If, therefore, anyone ventures to infringe either the present or future laws or instructions, or to impede the course of justice, or intrigue to this end, that person will be rigorously punished without mercy as an example to the public.

In giving you this warning beforehand we advise you to act accordingly.

No. 45.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.— (*Received December* 3.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 23, 1875.

I DIRECTED Mr. Sandison to remark to the Porte that, although a considerable time had elapsed since the report had been received of the massacre at Poporopolie of

a number of the Christian refugees who had returned to their homes, we had not heard of anyone having been punished for the outrage.

Mr. Sandison having to-day spoken in this sense to the Grand Vizier, His Highness at once telegraphed to the Governor-General of Bosnia to inquire what had been done to ensure the punishment of those concerned in the murders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 46.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 8, 1875.

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's proceedings, as reported in your despatch of the 23rd ultimo, in which you state that you had reminded the Porte that no intelligence had been received of any one having been punished for the massacre at Popovopolis of the Christian refugees who were returning to their homes, and that the Grand Vizier had in consequence telegraphed to the Governor-General of Bosnia to inquire what had been done to secure the punishment of those concerned in that outrage.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 47.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 11, 1875.

THE Austrian Ambassador called on me to-day and communicated to me the substance of a telegraphic despatch which he had received from his Government to the following effect:

The Austrian Government are informed that, in consequence of the pressing language of the Emperor's Ambassador at Constantinople, the Porte will proceed to reforms of a general character, not, however, making them the object of a solemn hatt. As for special reforms for the insurgent provinces, the Porte is prepared to accept such propositions emanating from the Powers as may not affect the dignity of the Turkish Empire in form or in effect. Every real difficulty seems to them thus to have been got rid of, the aim of the Austro-Hungarian Government being to obtain the extinguishing of the insurrection before the spring. They hope to be in accordance on this point with the British Cabinet, and to see the influence of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople directed to the same ends.

The Turkish Ministers had hitherto directed their energies exclusively to the task of preventing anything which could be construed into an interference of any kind into the internal affairs of Turkey. This standpoint, however respectable it may be, has the disadvantage, the Austro-Hungarian Government considered, of prolonging a regrettable state of things, and therefore of aggravating the danger.

Negotiations respecting the affairs of the East are now being carried on between Vienna and St. Petersburgh, the result of which will be communicated, as soon as an agreement has been arrived at, to Her Majesty's Government, not in the light of an accomplished fact, but for their consideration, and for them to state their own opinions on the propositions agreed upon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 48.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 20.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, November* 29, 1875.

THE Grand Vizier has now received from His Majesty the formal Iradé directing the reforms to be carried out, and His Highness will immediately proceed to settle their details.

He repeated to me what he proposed to do. He said that, although Christians would at first only be appointed to the posts of sub or district Governors, it was intended that they should shortly be nominated to the superior position of Governors likewise.

The present law of the Vilayets would be abrogated, and replaced by one which should give the people a more real voice in the administration of the provinces than they had hitherto had, and the members of the Provincial Councils would be elected by the inhabitants upon a franchise which will have to be determined.

In the reorganization of the police, he proposed that it should be selected from persons of both religions, and that for the future its duties should be confined to the maintenance of order, leaving the collection of the taxes to the care of special functionaries.

He proposed as far as possible to unify the taxes, to correct the present complicated system under which they are levied, and to prevent the "bedel," or tax for military exemption from being levied upon children, which has been the occasion for much well grounded complaint on the part of the Christian populations.

In regard to the tenure of property, the Christians would be put upon a footing of perfect equality with the Mussulmans, and the old arrangements which partook of the character of serfdom should be abolished.

The attributions of the "Sheri," or religious courts, would be curtailed and confined to the cases more properly appertaining to them, other matters being referred to the Civil Tribunals.

This is a point of much importance to the Christians, for, as the religious courts neither admit documentary nor written evidence, nor receive Christian evidence, they could hope for little justice from them.

The above reforms only or chiefly affect the administration of the provinces, but the abolition of the Council of State, and of the High Court of Justice affects that of the whole Empire.

The Grand Vizier says that his intention is that each Department shall, for the future, be responsible for its acts.

Your Lordship will perceive that the reforms projected are of the highest importance.

No. 49.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 20.)

My Lord, *Therapia, December 2, 1875.*

THE project of the different reforms, of which I have communicated the basis to your Lordship, has been under the consideration of the Council of Ministers, which has already approved the greater number of them, and put them into the final shape that they are intended to have.

These have been submitted to the Imperial sanction, and, as the Council is to-day occupied upon the rest, it is expected that they will be promulgated within a very few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 50.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 14, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a note from the Porte, inclosing a translation of the new Firman by which the Sultan orders the administrative reforms to be carried out.

In transmitting to your Lordship, by the present post, the copy of the document as I have received it from the Porte, it is not possible for me to accompany it with any comments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Raschid Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 13 *Décembre*, 1875.

J'AI l'honneur de communiquer ci-inclus à votre Excellence la traduction en Français du Firman Impérial par lequel Sa Majesté le Sultan, mon auguste maître, dans sa haute sollicitude pour tous ses sujets sans distinction, a daigné leur octroyer de nouvelles immunités et faveurs comme complément de celles qui leur avaient été accordées précédemment.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RASCHID.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, December* 13, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency the inclosed French translation of an Imperial Firman, by which His Majesty the Sultan, our august master, in his noble care for all his subjects without distinction, has deigned to grant them new immunities and new favours as a supplement to those which have been previously conceded.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) RASCHID.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Imperial Firman.

(Traduction.)

A vous mon illustre Grand Vésir, Mahmoud Nédim Pacha.

LES Etats civilisés doivent consacrer leurs efforts à garantir les droits publics. Tous les moyens qui doivent concourir à la sauvegarde et au maintien de ce principe ne peuvent être obtenus que par une stricte application de la justice à tous sans distinction et par l'organisation régulière de l'administration. Les intérêts individuels ne sont assurés que par l'ordre et la prospérité du pays, les intérêts particuliers étant intimement liés aux intérêts généraux.

Depuis notre avénement au Trône, nos intentions et nos sentiments impériaux, déjà portés à la connaissance de tous, ont eu pour objet, avec l'aide de Dieu, la grandeur et la gloire de notre Empire, la tranquillité et le bien-être de toutes les classes de nos sujets, et le développement du progrès au profit de la richesse et de la prospérité de nos Etats. Pour réaliser plus complètement encore ces intentions, nous avons résolu d'octroyer à tous nos sujets et de promulguer des immunités et des réformes propres à assurer complètement la confiance publique. En conséquence nous ordonnons, en vertu de notre présent Iradé Impériale, l'application, par la grâce du Tout Puissant, des mesures qui suivent :—

La garantie des droits publics repose sur l'abstention de toute ingérance du pouvoir exécutif dans l'exercice du pouvoir judiciaire, ainsi que sur la défense de la loi contre tout abus.

Il ne suffit pas d'instituer des tribunaux, pour qu'il soit en possession de la confiance générale ; il faut encore que les membres de ces tribunaux se recommandent par leur mérite réel, par la pureté de leurs mœurs, et par leur intégrité, ainsi que par des actes conformes à la justice et à l'équité.

Notre Haute Cour de Justice n'a été instituée que pour concentrer en elle toutes ces conditions et qualités. Dès lors il est nécessaire de fonder sur ces bases sa composition et ses attributions, et d'introduire des améliorations sérieuses dans les diverses parties de ses fonctions.

De même que l'indépendance des Tribunaux par rapport au pouvoir administratif peut seule en assurer l'impartialité, de même l'inamovibilité des juges, sauf révocation pour cause légitime, peut seule les rendre dignes de toute confiance. Il faut donc que le choix de ces membres soit fait de manière à commander l'estime de tous.

Les attributions de la Présidence de la Cour de Cassation qui domine tous les tribunaux Nijamié (civils, correctionnels, criminels) sont détachées de celles de notre Ministère de la Justice. Les deux sections de cette Cour auront un Premier Président et un Vice-Président. En même temps la Cour d'Appel et les Tribunaux de Commerce seront

réunis à notre Ministère de la Justice, ce qui permettra au Ministère du Commerce de se consacrer au développement de tout ce qui intéresse le commerce, l'industrie et l'agriculture. A cet effet la Cour d'Appel attachée à notre Haute Cour de Justice réunira les attributions de la Cour d'Appel du Commerce, ainsi que celles du Tribunal Criminel. Elle comprendra par conséquent trois Chambres correspondant aux affaires correctionnelles, aux affaires civiles, et aux affaires commerciales. On élira de nouveau les Présidents et les Juges tant de cette Cour ainsi instituée que de la Cour de Cassation de manière à ce qu'ils réunissent toutes les conditions légalement requises.

On réformera et on constituera de la même manière les Tribunaux Civils de Première Instance. Il sera délivré à chacun des membres de ces Cours et Tribunaux, choisis avec la plus scrupuleuse attention, un Bérat Impérial les garantissant contre toute destitution sans cause légitime, et on élaborera également un Règlement qui fixera leurs droits à la retraite.

La réorganisation que nous venons de décréter de notre Haute Cour de Justice, ayant pour but d'assurer l'expédition normale et régulière de toutes les affaires litigieuses en reliant entre eux, aux moyens d'une organisation uniforme, tous les Tribunaux Nijamié (civils, criminels, et correctionnels), nous voulons que les mêmes règles soient appliquées aux dits Tribunaux institués dans nos Etats et dont la mission est de rendre la justice à nos sujets et de faire régner partout les lois de l'équité.

Dans le but d'écarter toute cause de méfiance de la part du public par rapport à la constitution et à la composition de ces Tribunaux, et de les mettre à l'abri de l'ingérance et de l'influence du pouvoir, nous ordonnons de la manière la plus formelle ce qui suit :—

Tous nos sujets sont autorisés à élire eux-mêmes les juges et les membres Musulmans et non-Musulmans, tant des dits Tribunaux, que des Conseils Administratifs des Provinces. En conséquence, des instructions précises seront envoyées dans toutes les provinces de l'Empire pour instituer ces Tribunaux et Conseils et procéder à leur composition suivant le mode ci-dessus décrété.

Les naïbs qui se trouvent dans les chefs-lieux des vilayets occuperont le poste de Présidents des Cours d'Appel de ces chefs-lieux. Les Présidents des Tribunaux Civils et Criminels dans les chefs-lieux des Sandjaks et des Cajas seront choisis parmi les personnes les plus capables.

L'examen, par rapport au Chéri, des sentences rendues par les Tribunaux de Chéri, des Sandjaks, et des Cajas, sera également dévolu aux dits naïbs des chefs-lieux des vilayets.

Comme l'institution des Tribunaux doit avoir pour effet essentiel de centraliser les garanties de sécurité pour les droits des personnes, les procès de nos sujets Musulmans avec nos subjets Chrétiens et autres non-Musulmans, ainsi que les procès de nos sujets Chrétiens entre eux ou avec nos sujets appartenant à d'autres croyances non-Musulmans, et les procès de ces derniers entre eux seront référés aux Tribunaux Nijamié (civils, correctionnels, criminels). On devra compléter et mettre en vigueur dans le plus bref délai les lois et règlements concernant la procédure à suivre devant les dits Tribunaux et d'après nos Décrets Impériaux.

L'observation scrupuleuse de la loi est un sauvegarde contre l'arbitraire et doit être par conséquent l'objet de l'attention constante des Tribunaux. De même l'application des dispositions de la loi, proportionnée à la gravité du crime constaté, doit être prise en sérieuse considération, de façon à ce que personne ne soit détenu sans jugement, et que les mauvais traitements ne soient jamais tolérés. A cet effet on doit publier que tous ceux qui auront été convaincus d'avoir commis ces actes en violant les principes qui viennent d'être posés seront poursuivis et punis d'après toute la rigueur des lois ; et ce afin d'assurer le respect absolu de la justice.

Un des points les plus importants du principe fondamental qui garantit les droits de nos sujets consiste dans l'application d'une juste proportion dans les impôts et redevances de l'Etat, aussi bien que dans leur perception suivant un mode équitable. Il est vrai que les revenus généraux du Trésor ont été proportionnés aux dépenses administratives et militaires exigées par l'exercice de l'autorité, et que l'on doit rechercher sous les moyens propres à augmenter ces revenus au fur et à mesure du développement des richesses du pays et de la prospérité publique ; mais on doit aussi, et telle est notre volonté Impériale, renoncer à celles des branches des revenus publics qui sont une cause de souffrance pour la population, sans assurer aucun avantage important au Trésor.

La diversité des impôts et contributions intérieures auxquels sont soumis tous nos sujets, ayant amené un régime anormal de perception et de répartition, nous ordonnons de rechercher un mode d'unification des dits impôts, et de les mettre immédiatement

en vigueur de manière à alléger les populations de notre Empire, par l'établissement d'une juste proportionalité, tout en sauvegardant les intérêts légitimes du Trésor.

Indépendamment de la suppression du quart supplémentaire de la dîme, suppression qui a été récemment décrétée par l'effet de notre sollicitude Impériale pour le bien-être de tous nos sujets, on doit encore prendre les mesures les plus efficaces pour prévenir l'arbitraire dans la perception de la dîme par l'intermédiaire des fermiers, et pour empêcher également qu'aucun dommage ne soit porté soit à nos populations agricoles soit à notre Trésor Impérial.

Comme la perception des impôts directement payés par nos sujets, perception qui doit avoir un caractère spécial, avait été confiée aux zaptiés dans les provinces, et que ce mode de procéder est reconnu aujourd'hui abusif, nous ordonnons que la police n'ait plus à exercer aucune immixtion dans le recouvrement des impôts, et qu'on désigne pour cet objet les percepteurs choisis par les populations Musulmanes et non-Musulmanes elles-mêmes, lesquels auront à opérer les recouvrements suivant les instructions qui seront élaborées à cet effet. Telle étant à cet égard notre ferme volonté Impériale, on mettra sans retard à exécution cette mesure destinée à garantir aussi bien l'exercice des droits du fisc que le mode de perception de l'impôt.

Parmi les questions qui touchent les intérêts de nos sujets se présente celle de la réforme à introduire dans les titres de la propriété immobilière. La délivrance de ces titres, qui s'effectue d'une manière différente dans notre capitale et dans les provinces, et l'absence de titres, ont pour effet de surcharger de travail les Tribunaux, d'occasionner des difficultés et des procès au préjudice des populations, et de déprécier la valeur des immeubles. Pour obvier à ces inconvénients, les titres de toutes les propriétés immobilières, à quelque catégorie qu'elles appartiennent, seront désormais exclusivement délivrés par la Direction Générale des Archives. Un programme complet sera présenté à cet effet pour assurer le droit de propriété à tous nos sujets.

Suivant notre constant désir, la vie, les biens, et l'honneur de tous nos sujets doivent être garantis, et ce but doit être principalement atteint au moyen de la police. En conséquence, les zaptiés seront choisis parmi les personnes honnêtes et jouissant de la confiance des habitants de chaque localité. Les mesures concernant les attributions seront immédiatement mises à exécution, afin d'établir une fois de plus la confiance et la sécurité parmi toutes les classes de nos sujets.

Le progrès de la civilisation dans notre Empire formant l'objet de tous nos vœux et les richesses d'un peuple ne pouvant se développer que par le bien-être, il est du devoir de l'autorité d'épargner à nos sujets toute contrainte et tout abus tels que la mesure vexatoire des corvées, qui est déjà entièrement prohibée en principe, lesquelles corvées étaient appliquées à la construction des routes et chaussées et aux autres travaux d'utilité publique, au sujet desquels la population montre tant de zèle et de patriotisme. On doit donc éviter de faire du service de prentation rendu par nos sujets aux travaux publics une cause de vexation et de dommages tant pour leurs personnes que pour leurs intérêts. En conséquence le système défectueux en vigueur sera réformé et entouré de plus de garanties. Des instructions précises et catégoriques seront données aux fonctionnaires de l'administration afin qu'ils tiennent constamment la main pour qu'aucun acte contraire à notre volonté Impérale ne soit commis à cet égard.

Considérant qu'il y a urgence à adopter les mesures propres à réformer et à développer l'agriculture, l'industrie, et le commerce de notre Empire, et à augmenter ainsi les richesses de nos sujets ; considérant également que les attributions essentielles du Ministère du Commerce doivent consister à réaliser nos intentions à ce sujet : nous ordonnons que l'on consulte sur ces matières les hommes capables et compétents, et que l'on soumette leurs décisions à notre sanction Impériale.

Toutes les classes de nos sujets qui vivent à l'ombre de notre protection Impériale sont à nos yeux et dans nos sentiments de justice sur le pied d'une complète égalité. C'est pourquoi nous confirmons les pouvoirs dont sont revêtus les patriarches et les autres chefs spirituels pour les affaires de leurs communautés respectives, ainsi que pour le libre exercice de leurs cultes, conformément aux priviléges et immunités existant des dites communautés. Toutes les affaires se rattachant tant à l'autorité des dits chefs spirituels qu'on besoin et aux actes de leurs conseils spéciaux, dans les limites des droits et autorisations qui leur ont été octroyés, continueront à être l'objet de toute notre protection, et l'on accordera toutes les facilités pour la fondation et la construction de leurs églises, de leurs écoles, et de leurs autres édifices nationaux.

Toutes les classes de nos sujets ayant toujours le libre accès des grades et des

fonctions publiques, suivant leur mérite et leurs aptitudes, nous confirmons l'admission à ces emplois de nos sujets non-Musulmans, dont l'intégrité et la sagacité auront été reconnues.

L'impôt d'exonération du service militaire auquel sont soumis nos sujets Musulmans a été établi en compensation du service militaire effectif auquel sont abstreints nos sujets Musulmans; mais comme l'égalité des droits comporte l'égalité des charges et que l'on n'a pas tenu compte, dans une juste proportion, de l'âge et de la condition des contribuables; qu'enfin la perception et la répartition de cet impôt au sein des communautés ne sont pas soumises à un contrôle régulier et équitable, nous ordonnons, comme une nouvelle marque de notre justice, que la répartition du dit impôt soit faite de façon à ce que tous ceux de nos sujets non-Musulmans qui n'auraient pas atteint l'âge de vingt ans ou qui auraient dépassé l'âge de quarante ans, ainsi que les infirmes et les invalides, soient affranchis de cette contribution. On veillera à ce que la règle établie, calculée sur sa quotité individuelle de cette contribution, ne soit pas affectée par cette mesure; que l'impôt soit perçu suivant le nombre réel des contribuables, et que dans le cas où ce nombre augmenterait, les revenus du Trésor suivent la même progression; qu'enfin le recouvrement, suivant le mode ci-dessus décrété, s'opère par les soins des contribuables eux-mêmes. Dès lors la contribution actuelle de 100*l.* par tête pour ceux des Musulmans qui veulent s'exonérer du service militaire sera, suivant le même principe d'égalité, réduite à 50*l.*

Dans certaines parties de notre Empire nos sujets non-Musulmans ne peuvent pas devenir propriétaires et sont employés dans les fermes. Cet état de chose étant contraire à nos sentiments de justice, il n'existera plus désormais aucune distinction entre nos sujets, soit pour la possession des terres vacantes vendues par adjudication, soit pour la possession des terres et biens qui sont vendus par des particuliers. En conséquence on leur assurera la jouissance, sur le pied de la plus complète égalité, des dispositions de la loi sur la propriété foncière.

Les dispositions testamentaires de nos sujets non-Musulmans dans les provinces seront respectées, et il ne sera point permis de s'immiscer dans la gestion faite par les tuteurs des biens des mineurs. Ce n'est que dans le cas où des plaintes seraient portées pour mauvaise gestion contre les tuteurs et exécuteurs testamentaires que l'autorité interviendrait et prendrait l'administration des biens des mineurs sous sa surveillance.

Toutes ces prescriptions et immunités émanées de notre volonté Impériale ont pour objet principal d'augmenter le bien-être des populations placées sous notre autorité Souveraine. La grandeur, la gloire, et la sécurité des Etats ne peuvent se maintenir que par l'intégrité et la justice du pouvoir exécutif, par l'obéissance de tous aux lois établies, et par l'observation rigoureuse, de la part des grands et des petits, des droits et attributions de chacun. Tous ceux qui dans nos Etats agiront conformément à ces principes seront l'objet de nos faveurs Impériales; de même que ceux qui méconnaîtront ces mêmes principes encourront un juste châtiment. Nous ordonnons, en conséquence, que l'on établisse, après l'avoir soumise à notre sanction, une règle suivant laquelle nous seront présentés, en toute sécurité, tous les renseignements et tous les vœux légitimes qui se produiraient pour signaler les contraventions à nos ordres Souverains ou les méfaits qui auraient été commis. Nous voulons également qu'indépendamment des mesures qui seront prises pour garantir la stricte observation des lois, on prépare des règlements et des instructions pour définir les attributions des Valis, des Mutessarifs, des Caïmacams, et de tous les fonctionnaires en général, conformément à nos ordres Impériaux. Nous voulons enfin qu'il soit connu de tous que les faveurs que nous octroyons pour les présentes ne doivent profiter qu'à ceux qui accomplissent leurs devoirs de sujets fidèles et loyaux, et que ceux qui sont sortis de cette voie en soient naturellement privés.

Vous qui êtes notre illustre Grand Vésir, vous publierez et promulguerez, dans la forme voulue, ce rescrit Souverain, tant dans notre capitale que dans toutes les provinces de notre Empire, et vous veillerez à ce que toutes les mesures nécessaires soient prises pour assurer l'exécution stricte et constante des dispositions qu'il contient.

Donné le 13 Zilkadé, de l'an 1292.

(Translation.)

To you, my Illustrious Vizier, Mahmoud Nédim Pasha,

CIVILISED States should consecrate their efforts to secure public rights. All the means which should combine for the security and the maintenance of this principle can be obtained only by a strict application of justice to all without distinction, and by a

regular organisation of its administration. Individual interests are secured only by the order and prosperity of the country, private interests being closely associated with the general welfare.

Since our accession to the throne our Imperial intentions and sentiments, already brought to the knowledge of all, have had for their object, with the help of God, the greatness and glory of our Empire, the tranquillity and welfare of all classes of our subjects, and the development of progress for the benefit of the wealth and prosperity of our territories. In order to realise these intentions yet more completely we have resolved to grant to all our subjects the immunities and reforms calculated to secure completely public confidence and to proclaim the same forthwith. In consequence, we decree, by virtue of our present Imperial Iradé, the application, by the grace of the Almighty, of the following measures :—

The security of public rights rests on the abstinence from all intermeddling of the executive power in the exercise of the judicial power, as well as in the laws prohibiting all abuses.

The institution of tribunals is not in itself sufficient to secure for them general confidence. The members of these tribunals must recommend themselves by actual merit, by the purity of their character, and by their integrity, as well as by acts in accordance with justice and equity.

Our High Court of Justice has been instituted for the purpose of uniting in itself all these conditions and qualities. Hence it is necessary to establish upon these bases its composition and its powers, and to introduce important amendments in various parts of its functions.

Precisely as the independence of the tribunals with regard to the executive power can alone secure their impartiality, so the immovability of the judges, save in the case of dismissal for some legitimate cause, can alone render them worthy of all confidence. The selection of these members of the courts must therefore be made in a manner to command the approval of all.

The functions attached to the presidency of the Cour de Cassation, which predominates over all the Nizamié tribunals—civil, correctional, criminal—are detached from those of our Ministry of Justice. The two sections of this Court will have a First President and a Vice-President. At the same time the Court of Appeal and the Tribunals of Commerce will be joined to our Ministry of Justice, which will permit the Ministry of Commerce to devote itself to the development of all that concerns commerce, industry, and agriculture. To this end the Court of Appeal attached to the High Court of Justice will unite in itself the functions of the Commercial Court of Appeal as well as those of the criminal tribunal. It will therefore consist of three Chambers, dealing respectively with correctional, civil, and commercial affairs. Presidents and Judges of this Court thus established, as well as of the Cour de Cassation, will be appointed afresh, in order that they may fulfil all the conditions legally required.

The civil tribunals of first resort will be reformed and constituted in a similar manner. There will be delivered to each member of these courts and tribunals, selected with the most scrupulous attention, an Imperial bérat, guaranteeing them against dismissal without legitimate cause, and an arrangement will be carried out which will fix their right to a retiring pension.

The reorganization which we have decreed of our High Court of Justice, having for its object to secure the normal and regular expediting of all suits at law, by uniting together in a uniform organization all the Nizamié Tribunals (civil, criminal, and correctional), we command that the same rules be applied to the said Tribunals established in our States, the mission of which is to render justice to our subjects, and to establish everywhere the laws of equity.

In order to remove every cause of mistrust on the part of the public with regard to the constitution and composition of these Tribunals, and to place them beyond the reach of the interference and influence of the executive power, we decree in the most formal manner as follows :—

All our subjects are authorized themselves to elect the Judges and Members, Mussulman and non-Mussulman, both of these said Tribunals, and of the Administrative Councils of the Provinces. Consequently precise instructions shall be sent into all the Provinces of the Empire to establish these Tribunals and Councils, and to proceed to their constitution in the manner as above decreed.

The Naïbs, who are in the chief places of the vilayets, will occupy the posts of Presidents of the Courts of Appeal of these chief places. The Presidents of the Civil

and Criminal Tribunals in the chief places of the Sandjaks and Cajas shall be chosen from the most capable persons.

The examination, as regards the Chéri, of the sentences passed by the Tribunals of the Chéri of the Sandjaks and Cajas will also devolve upon the said Naïbs of the chief places of the vilayets.

As the appointment of the Tribunals must have as an essential effect, the centralization of the guarantees for the security of personal rights, suits between our Mussulman and Christian or other non-Mussulman subjects, as well as suits of our Christian subjects among themselves, or with our subjects of other non-Mussulman faiths, and the suits of these last among themselves, shall be referred to the Nizamié Tribunals (civil, correctional, and criminal). The laws and rules relating to the procedure to be followed before these Tribunals, must be completed and put into force as speedily as possible, and in accordance with our Imperial Decrees.

The scrupulous observance of the law is a safeguard against arbitrary proceedings, and should consequently be the object of constant attention on the part of the Tribunals. In like manner the application of the decrees of the law, proportioned to the gravity of the crime committed, should be taken into serious consideration, in order that no one should be imprisoned without conviction, and that ill-usage should never be tolerated. For this purpose it should be publicly announced that all those who shall have been convicted of having committed acts in violation of the principles here laid down, will be prosecuted and punished with the utmost rigour of the laws, and this in order to secure absolute respect for justice.

One of the most important points of the fundamental principle which guarantees the rights of our subjects consists in the application of a fair proportion of the imposts and dues of the State, as well as in their collection according to an equitable system. It is true that the general revenues of the Treasury have been proportioned to the administrative and military expenses required by the exercise of authority, and that all proper means must be sought of augmenting these revenues for the purpose of developing the resources of the country and public property; but it is needful also, and such is our Imperial will, to renounce such branches of public revenue as are a cause of suffering to the population, without securing any important advantage to the Treasury.

The variety of internal imposts and contributions, to which all our subjects are liable, having brought about an abnormal condition of collection and apportionment, we decree that a mode of unification of these imposts be devised and immediately put in force, so as to relieve the populations of our Empire by an equitable apportionment, while protecting the legitimate interests of the Treasury.

Independently of the suppression of the supplementary fourth of the tithe, a suppression which was recently decreed by reason of our Imperial solicitude for the welfare of all our subjects, more effective steps must yet be taken to guard against arbitrary proceedings in the collection of the tithe by the intervention of farmers of the taxes, and equally to prevent any injury being suffered either by our populations or by our Imperial Treasury.

As the collection of taxes paid directly by our subjects, a collection which ought to possess a special character, had been entrusted to the zaptiés in the Provinces, and that this mode of proceeding is now admitted to be productive of abuse, we decree that the police shall no longer interfere in the recovery of taxes; and that for this purpose collectors be appointed, chosen by the Mussulman and non-Mussulman populations themselves, who shall carry on the collection according to instructions which shall be prepared for them. Such being in this respect our decided Imperial will, this measure shall be without delay put into force, designed as it is to guarantee equally the exercise of fiscal rights and the mode of collecting taxes.

Among the questions which affect the interests of our subjects, that of the reform to be effected in the titles to real property presents itself. The conveyance of these titles, which is effected in a different manner in our Capital and in the Provinces, as well as the want of titles, have the effect of overloading the Tribunals with work, of causing difficulties and law suits to the prejudice of the populations, and of lessening the value of real property. To obviate these evils the titles of all real property, to whatever category they may belong, shall be henceforth only conveyed by the general direction of the archives. A complete programme will be published for this purpose to secure the rights of property to all our subjects.

According to our constant wish the life, the property, and the honour of all our subjects are to be secured, and this end should be principally attained by means of the

police. Therefore the Zapties shall be selected from honest men possessing the confidence of the inhabitants of each locality. The measures concerning their functions shall at once be put into force, in order to establish once more confidence and security amongst all classes of our subjects.

The progress of civilization in our Empire being the object of all our desires, and the wealth of a people being only to be developed by their welfare, it is the duty of the executive authority to spare our subjects all constraint and all abuses, such as the annoying custom of statute labour, which has been already totally forbidden in principle; those enforced labours having been applied to the construction of roads, causeways, and other works of public utility, with respect to which the population already displayed so much zeal and patriotism, care must be taken not to make this service of payment in kind a source of annoyance and injury both to person and property. Therefore this defective system shall be reformed and guarded with securities. Precise and categorical instructions shall be given to the administrative functionaries that they may refrain from committing any act contrary to our will in this respect.

Considering that it is a matter of urgency to adopt measures calculated to reform and develop the agriculture, industry, and the commerce of our Empire, and thus to increase the wealth of our subjects; considering also that the essential functions of the Ministry of Commerce ought to consist in carrying out our intentions in this respect, we decree that capable and competent men be consulted in these matters, and that their opinions be submitted for our Imperial sanction.

All the classes of our subjects who live under the shadow of our Imperial protection, are in our eyes and in our views of justice, upon a footing of perfect equality. For this reason we confirm the powers with which the patriarchs and other spiritual heads are invested for the affairs of their respective communities, as well as for the free exercise of their religious worship, in conformity with the privileges and immunities existing in the said communities. All the matters pertaining, whether to the authority of these spiritual heads, or to their needs, or to the competence of their special councils, will continue, within the limits of the rights and powers which have been granted them, to be the objects of all our protection, and all facilities shall be afforded them for the foundation and construction of their churches, schools, and other national buildings.

All classes of our subjects having always free access to public rank and functions, according to their merit and fitness, we confirm the admission into these posts of our non-Mussulman subjects whose integrity and capacity shall have been admitted.

The tax for exemption from military service to which our non-Mussulman subjects are liable, was imposed as a compensation for the actual military service enforced from our Mussulman subjects; but as the equality of rights implies equality of obligations, and allowance was not made in fair proportion with regard to the age and condition of the person liable; and, lastly, as the collection and apportionment of this impost in the interior of communities was not submitted to a regular and equitable control, we decree, as a fresh evidence of our justice, that the apportionment of the said tax shall be so arranged that all our non-Mussulman subjects who have not attained the age of 30 years, or who shall have passed the age of 40 years, as well as the infirm and invalids, shall be freed from this contribution. Care shall be taken that the rule established, calculated on the individual proportion of this contribution, shall not be affected by this measure; that the tax shall be collected according to the actual number of those liable; and that if the number shall increase the revenues of the Treasury shall increase in proportion; that, lastly, the collection according to the mode here decreed, shall be effected by the care of those themselves liable to the tax. Henceforth the present contribution of 100 livres per head for those Mussulmans who wish to escape military service shall be, according to the same principle of equality, reduced to 50 livres.

In certain parts of our Empire our non-Mussulman subjects cannot possess land, and are employed upon farms. This state of things being opposed to our sense of justice, there shall no longer exist any distinction between our subjects, either with regard to the possession of unoccupied lands sold under judgment, or with regard to the possession of lands and property sold by private persons. Consequently they shall be secured in the enjoyment, on a footing of the most perfect equality, of the dispositions of the law of real property.

The testamentary dispositions of our non-Mussulman subjects in the Provinces shall be respected, and no interference will be permitted with the proceedings of the guardians of the property of minors. The authorities shall only interfere in cases where complaints are made against guardians and executors for maladministration, and in such cases may take the management of the property into their care.

All these prescriptions and immunities, springing from our Imperial will, have for their principal object to increase the welfare of the populations placed under our sovereign authority. The greatness, the glory, and the security of States can only be maintained by the integrity and justice of the executive powers, by the obedience of all to the established laws, and by the strict observance on the part of great and small of the rights and functions of every one. All those who in our States shall act in conformity with these principles shall be the recipients of our Imperial favours, while those who despise this same principle will suffer just punishment. We decree, therefore, that there be established, after having been submitted to us for our sanction, a rule according to which there shall be presented to us, in perfect security, all information and all legitimate desires which may arise to inform us of the contravention of our sovereign commands or of misdeeds which may have been committed. We desire also that, independently of the measures which shall be taken to secure the strict observance of the laws, rules and instructions be prepared to define the functions of the Valis, the Mutessarifs, the Kaïmakams, and all the functionaries in general, conformably to our Imperial orders. We desire, lastly, that it be understood by all that the favours which we grant by these presents can benefit only those who fulfil their duties as faithful and loyal subjects, and that those who depart from this position will be naturally deprived of benefit.

You, who are our illustrious Grand Vizier, you will publish and promulgate, in the form ordained, this sovereign rescript, as well in our Capital as in all the Provinces of our Empire; and you will see that all the necessary measures are taken to ensure the strict and continued execution of the dispositions which it contains.

Given the 13 Zilcadé, 1292 (November 30, December 12, 1875.)

No. 51.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha. December* 24.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 21 *Décembre,* 1875.

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultan vient de décréter l'institution d'un Conseil Exécutif qui aura à diriger et à surveiller, sous la présidence directe de son Altesse le Grand Vézir, l'exécution des réformes octroyées par son récent Firman. Un Comité des Contrôleurs sera attaché au dit Conseil. Ces Contrôleurs seront envoyés dans les Provinces pour tenir la main à l'exécution stricte et prompte de ces réformes, conformément aux instructions qui leur seront données par le Conseil. Au besoin, les membres eux-mêmes du dit Conseil feront des tournées en Provinces pour le même objet.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 21, 1875.

HIS Imperial Majesty the Sultan has just decreed the institution of an Executive Council, which is to direct and supervise, under the direct presidency of His Highness the Grand Vizier, the execution of the reforms granted by his recent Firman. A Committee of Controllers will be attached to this Council. These controllers will be sent into the provinces to see to the strict and prompt execution of these reforms, in accordance with the instructions which will be given them by the Council. In case of necessity, the members of the said Council will themselves make visits to the provinces for the same object.

No. 52.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, December* 29, 1875.

THE Turkish Ambassador called to-day, and said that there was a matter which he was very anxious should be clearly understood.

It had been stated in the press that the fact of the Sultan issuing a Firman for reforms was a proof that the reforms promised by the Hatti-Humayoun had not been carried into effect, and, if this were so, how could greater confidence be placed in the present than in past promises of reforms?

Now this was far from being the truth.

The power of the Sultan had originally been absolute. He could put persons to death at his pleasure, and his word alone was law.

By the Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané of 1839, the Sultan undertook to respect the life, property, and honour of his subjects, and to regard them all as equal before the law.

By the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856, the Sultan further undertook to establish Ministers of Justice and Finance, to admit Christians to all privileges enjoyed by Turks, from which they might then be debarred, and to establish a system of local Government by Councils, to which Christians of all denominations were admitted, and also to create Mixed Tribunals for the settlement of law suits between Christians and Turks, in which Christians could give evidence.

The recent Firman was merely a confirmation of this by introducing a reformed plan of administration. For instance, under the Hatti-Humayoun, the chief of the Courts of Law was the Minister of Justice.

Now a Supreme Court was to be established, whose head was to be permanent and not a Minister. Hitherto the Judges had been appointed for uncertain periods by a system of election. Now they were to be immoveable, except after conviction of crime.

In short, the edifice, of which the foundation was laid by the Firman of Gulhané in 1839 and the body completed by the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856, was now crowned and made perfect by the recent Firman.

No. 53.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 31.)

My Lord, *Pera, December* 23, 1875.

A PERMANENT Commission, presided over by the Grand Vizier, has been constituted for the preparation of the regulations for carrying out the Reform Firman, and for watching over its execution.

It is fairly composed of four Mahomedan and four Christian members, the latter being persons well looked upon by their respective communities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 54.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, January* 3, 1876.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 16 *Décembre*, 1875.

MON télégramme du a porté en résumé à votre connaissance les nouvelles réformes que Sa Majesté notre auguste Maître a daigné octroyer à tous ses sujets sans distinction par son Firman Impérial du 13 Zilcadé, 1292 ($\frac{1}{13}$ Décembre, 1875). Vous trouverez aujourd'hui sous ce pli *in extenso* la traduction de ce Rescrit Souverain.

Je ne saurais assez rappeler ici, M. l'Ambassadeur, les intentions magnanimes et la sollicitude généreuse dont Sa Majesté a déjà donné tant de preuves éclatantes pour tout ce qui a rapport au progrès moral et matériel de son Empire.

Voulant plus que jamais accorder une protection spéciale au commerce et à l'agriculture, régulariser le fonctionnement de la justice, et asseoir l'administration en général sur des bases sérieuses et radicales en rapport avec les besoins réels et la situation de ses vastes états, Sa Majesté Impériale vient de couronner dignement son œuvre de haute justice et d'équité en décrétant ces nouvelles réformes dont je me propose ici d'expliquer la portée et de faire en particulier une analyse succincte au point de vue de leur importance et de leur utilité pratique pour le progrès économique et social de l'Empire.

En première ligne se place la réorganisation de la justice.

Le principe réuni de la constitution générale de l'autorité judiciaire et de la composition particulière de chacun de nos Tribunaux a été, il y a plusieurs années, décrété et mis en vigueur en Turquie. La Haute Cour de Justice, comprenant les

Cours de Cassation et d'Appel, et ayant sous sa juridiction directe les Tribunaux de Première Instance, a fonctionné, vous ne l'ignorez pas, sous l'empire d'une codification appropriée aux mœurs du pays et en rapport en même temps avec les exigences de l'époque.

A côté de ce système ont fonctionné également les Tribunaux du Chéri investis des mêmes pouvoirs et attributions judiciaires, sauf la classification, mais différant, dans quelques points essentiels, sous le rapport des dispositions légales et de la procédure.

Il fallait donc, tout en confirmant et en respectant la loi du Chéri et son application, loi dont les traditions antiques, la doctrine élevée et les dispositions toutes conciliatrices, toutes d'équité et de conscience, ont su maintenir intacts les principes fondamentaux de la justice et les institutions du pays, il fallait, dis-je, en présence des conflits de juridiction et des dispositions contradictoires qui se produisaient dans les attributions respectives et le fonctionnement proprement dit des Tribunaux du Chéri et ceux Nizamyés, définir nettement les attributions de chacun de manière à maintenir, autant que possible, l'uniformité de la jurisprudence, la régularité des procédures et opposer un frein aux envahissements naturels du pouvoir.

C'est dans ce but légitime et salutaire que le Firman Impérial, comme vous voudrez bien le remarquer, sépare la Haute Cour de l'action directe exercée jusqu'à ce jour sur elle par le Ministère de la Justice, établit l'inamovibilité des Juges, sauf révocation fondée, avec des règlements fixant leurs droits à la retraite, place sous la juridiction de la même Cour les Tribunaux de Commerce qui dépendaient du Ministère du Commerce, désigne à la présidence des Cours d'Appel des chefs-lieux des provinces les Naïbs, afin que ceux-ci soient à même d'examiner, séparément et indépendamment de leurs fonctions civiles, l'examen, sous le rapport du Chéri seulement, des sentences rendues par les Tribunaux du Chéri, puis de connaître en leur qualité de Présidents du Tribunal du Nizamié, et en dernier ressort, de toutes les affaires civiles, correctionnelles, et criminelles proprement dites. Le Firman réfère, et c'est là le point capital qui tranche définitivement, comme je l'ai mentionné plus haut, les attributions respectifs, réfère, dis-je, à la Haute Cour de Justice et à ses ressortissants les procès entre les sujets Musulmans et Chrétiens et autres communautés, ou entre ces dernières et les Chrétiens, ou entre ceux-ci ou les communautés non-Musulmans elles-mêmes. Ce qu'il réserve au Chéri, ce sont seulement les procès entre les sujets Musulmans.

Pour mettre une innovation aussi radicale en harmonie avec le nouvel état de choses de façon à ne pas trop heurter, *ex abrupto*, les susceptibilités légitimes réciproques, et à traduire immédiatement en faits la distinction et la définition des pouvoirs et prérogatives ainsi établies, on codifiera les divers lois et règlements pour amener une procédure uniforme et régulière.

Comme complément à cet édifice de faisceaux judiciaires et pour accorder à ses fidèles et loyaux sujets dans les provinces la plus large part dans tous les moyens tendant à sauvegarder leurs biens, leur honneur et leurs intérêts, Sa Majesté Impériale a daigné les autoriser à élire eux-mêmes tant les membres des tribunaux que ceux des conseils administratifs provinciaux, et les mettre ainsi à même de voir toutes les garanties publiques d'administration, d'ordre et de justice confiées au patriotisme et au dévouement de leurs mandataires choisis par eux librement et sans aucune ingérence du pouvoir. Ainsi, composition de ces conseils et tribunaux offrant les garanties voulues par l'élection locale, et mise sans coup férir en pratique de l'axiome d'éternelle équité, " Locus regit actum," tel a été le mobile qui a dicté ces mesures. Il va sans dire que la composition des dits conseils et tribunaux avec le mode d'élection qui vient d'être indiqué ne va pas tarder à être clairement défini par des instructions spéciales.

Les Tribunaux de Commerce ayant été, comme je l'ai dit plus haut, soustraits à l'influence du Ministère de Commerce, dès lors cette Administration aura à s'occuper exclusivement des améliorations tendant à développer le commerce dans l'Empire, à écarter toutes les entraves qui en arrêtent l'extension, et à mettre surtout tous les moyens en pratique pour encourager et faire prospérer l'agriculture, principale ressource destinée à assurer la richesse du pays, qui s'y prête si admirablement par sa position géographique, sa fertilité, et les aptitudes foncièrement laborieuses et agricoles de ses populations.

Votre Excellence relèvera sans aucun doute de la lecture du Firman Impérial toute la sollicitude vouée à la réforme de l'assiette de l'impôt.

En effet l'expérience démontre journellement que la diversité des contributions dans toutes les parties de l'Empire en général, et dans certaines autres en particulier, parties où les voies et communications ne sont pas encore sérieusement établies, et où par conséquent un contrôle sévère et incessant ne saurait encore être exercé, cette

diversité, dis-je, occasionne journellement des difficultés et complications dans le mode de la répartition et du prélèvement des impôts. Dans l'origine, les populations étaient soumises à un régime plus simple d'imposition qui n'avait pas autant de ramifications que maintenant. Il est vrai que la consommation et dès lors les contributions augmentent en proportion du bien-être des habitants et des besoins de la civilisation ; mais ces besoins de comfort et de luxe sont encore inconnus à une grande partie de nos populations dont une des qualités essentielles est la sobriété et l'amour du travail des champs, et qui, par conséquent, ne pourraient facilement se déshabituer de leurs mœurs antiques et patriarcales. Dans cette situation, établir des impôts pour des consommations et usages qui ne sauraient encore avoir leur raison d'être, et dont l'habitude n'a pas encore pénétré dans les masses, ce serait créer des entraves à la perception, des causes de souffrance pour les contribuables, et dès lors un état de choses anormal. C'est précisément ce qui a lieu chez nous à l'heure qu'il est, et c'est ce qui a engagé le Gouvernement Impérial à songer à alléger dans la mesure du possible, ainsi qu'il l'a fait tout récemment pour le quart supplémentaire de la dîme, certaines contributions qui préjudicient les populations sans offrir aucun avantage réel pour le Trésor, et à simplifier davantage l'assiette de l'impôt, en l'unifiant dans une juste proportionnalité, et en dégageant ainsi de tout obstacle le mode de la répartition et du prélèvement.

Dans cet ordre d'idées, et pour donner dès à present au système projeté un commencement d'exécution, Sa Majesté Impériale s'est plu, dans ses sentiments de paternelle sollicitude, à charger ses sujets eux-mêmes du prélèvement de l'impôt dans leur sein, par le canal de percepteurs de leur propre choix, sans que les zaptiés (gendarmes) puissent désormais, comme ils le faisaient jusqu'à ce jour, exercer aucune ingérence dans le recouvrement des impôts.

Ce sont toujours les mêmes intentions généreuses qui viennent de dicter, simultanément avec ce privilège, que les zaptiés, dont le choix n'a malheureusement pas été l'objet de tous les soins voulus, et qui a donné lieu à maintes plaintes et actes vexatoires, soient à l'avenir choisis parmi les personnes réunissant les qualités necéssaires et jouissant en particulier de l'estime et de la confiance de leurs concitoyens.

Ces mesures, dont l'importance et l'efficacité n'échapperont point à l'attention de votre Excellence, jointes au décret qui ordonne d'entourer de plus de garanties le système de prestation en défendant d'une manière absolue les corvées en général et les réquisitions forcées, prouvent d'une manière indiscutable que la Sublime Porte, tout en proclamant de grands principes d'égalité et de justice, a eu surtout en vue de traduire sans retard ces principes en faits, et d'en ordonner dès à présent la mise en vigueur, se réservant d'en étendre les avantages complets au fur et à mesure de leur application. C'est ce point surtout que votre Excellence voudra bien développer et faire ressortir autour d'elle de façon à réduire au silence, par des raisons convaincantes et palpables, nos détracteurs.

La partie du Rescrit Impérial qui dégage des rouages compliqués de l'administration de l'Evkaf la délivrance des titres des propriétés immobilières, en confiant ces attributions à la Direction Générale des Archives, seule administration où le mode d'enregistrement s'est le mieux conservé, mettra fin aux embarras de toute sorte qui ne manquaient pas de se produire à la suite du mode de délivrance différant dans plusieurs provinces et de l'absence aussi de ces documents dans plusieurs autres.

L'impôt de l'exonération du service militaire perçu sur les sujets non-Musulmans de l'Empire subit à son tour une réforme sérieuse. Quoi de plus juste que l'acte généreux en vertu duquel notre auguste Maître fixe des limites éminemment équitables à la perception de cet impôt, qui ne frappera plus le contribuable qu'à partir de l'âge de vingt ans à quarante ans, tandis que jusqu'à ce jour cette contribution ne distinguait point d'âge ? Alléger, d'un autre côté, la partie de la population qui verse son sang pour le trône et la patrie, de la moitié d'une contribution de même nature, contribution qui lui pesait si lourdement, n'est-ce pas là une nouvelle réforme bienfaisante et sérieuse ? De pareilles mesures dispensent de tout commentaire, tant elles sautent, pour ainsi dire, aux yeux et sont destinées à produire immédiatement leur effet.

Mais ce qui est sans contredit le plus digne de remarque et devant, par conséquent, avoir les meilleurs résultats au point de vue de l'économie sociale et pratique, c'est l'abolition d'un usage coutumier, d'après lequel les habitants de certaines localités ne possédaient pas de terres. En effet, les habitants Chrétiens de ces localités, sans être précisément attachés à la glèbe seigneuriale, comme l'étaient jadis les serfs en Europe, avaient pour seul avantage de jouir, dans une certaine mesure, des produits de ces terres, mais sans les posséder. Une Loi Agraire telle qu'on la pratiquée anciennement et de nos jours dans certains pays n'aurait pas manqué, en cas où elle serait appliquée

d'une manière analogue chez nous, d'amener les plus graves perturbations dans les rapports des propriétaires avec le paysan, ainsi que l'expérience l'a démontré partout où l'on a voulu agir de la sorte. Nous ne pouvions, d'ailleurs, y songer, contraire comme elle l'est à la morale et aux droits publics par suite du caractère de spoliation qui s'y rattache. La Sublime Porte s'est donc arrêtée à la mesure qui vient d'être décrétée, celle de donner entière liberté aux paysans des dites localités de devenir propriétaires. Il est évident, et un avenir prochain le démontrera victorieusement, que, libre de toute entrave et dégagée de toute restriction locale, la population agricole trouvera amplement à acheter des terres incultes considérables qui s'y trouvent, et qui ne demandent qu'à être cultivées. D'un autre côté, elle deviendra, par le nouvel état de choses et d'après les dispositions d'une loi spéciale dont le texte vous sera bientôt transmis, facilement et naturellement propriétaire des terres qui se vendent journellement par voie d'adjudication dans ces endroits, et qui, après la nouvelle mesure décrétée, continueront à être vendues sur une plus vaste échelle encore, attendu que les propriétaires actuels, par suite de l'affranchissement de leurs *quasi* vassaux, verront des bras manquer aux travaux de leurs champs, et se trouveront, dès lors, dans l'obligation d'entrer en composition avec leurs fermiers.

Votre Excellence comprendra aisément que de cette manière toutes les éventualités de nature à amener des faits regrettables seront *ipso facto* écartées, et le but n'en sera pas moins atteint avec plus de certitude et de célérité.

Enfin, les privilèges et immunités accordés *ab antiquo* aux communautés non-Musulmanes et à leurs chefs spéciaux sont par le même acte souverain non-seulement confirmés d'une manière solennelle, mais encore ils viennent de recevoir une plus large consécration dans les nouvelles facilités qui sont accordées, sans restriction aucune, pour la construction de leurs églises, de leurs écoles, et de tous leurs autres établissements nationaux. En outre, les dispositions testamentaires, qui naguère devaient passer par la loi du Chéri et recevoir sa sanction pour être reconnues valables, sont aujourd'hui dispensées de cette obligation, et comme conséquence logique des raisons qui ont milité en faveur de la séparation des pouvoirs et attributions des Tribunaux respectifs elles seront purement et simplement respectées telles qu'elles, c'est-à-dire qu'elles auront force de loi, à moins qu'il ne se produise des plaintes contre les tuteurs et exécuteurs testamentaires, auquel cas l'Administration devra naturellement intervenir.

Telles sont, M. l'Ambassadeur, les améliorations radicales qui viennent d'être solennellement décrétées.

Le Gouvernement Impérial est fermement décidé à tenir la main à leur exécution stricte et immédiate ; et, confiant en l'amitié et en la juste appréciation du Cabinet de St. James, il est certain que ces réformes, et en particulier les sentiments de sollicitude spontanée et généreuse de notre auguste Souverain qui les ont dictées, recevront toute son approbation.

Nous avons rempli consciencieusement les devoirs qui nous incombaient en présence des besoins et de la situation de l'Empire ; nous voucrons à l'avenir également tous nos efforts pour assurer de plus en plus le bien-être de nos fidèles et laborieuses populations et pour développer de plus en plus ces réformes en proportion des progrès moraux et matériels du pays. Nous n'avons plus qu'un vœu à formuler, c'est celui de voir les malheureuses populations égarées de l'Herzégovine rentrer bientôt dans la voie de l'obéissance pour jouir, à leur tour, et à l'égal de leurs concitoyens des autres parties de l'Empire, des faveurs si généreusement accordées par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan à tous ses sujets.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RASCHID.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, December* 16, 1875.

MY telegram of the has brought to your knowledge a summary of the new reforms which His Majesty, our august Master, has designed to grant to all his subjects indiscriminately by his Imperial Firman of the 13th Zilcadé, 1293 ($\frac{1}{13}$ December, 1875). You find herein inclosed the translation *in extenso* of this Imperial rescript.

And here I cannot, M. l'Ambassadeur, sufficiently remind you of the generous solicitude and the magnanimous intentions, of which His Majesty has already given such brilliant proof, in regard to everything relating to the moral and material progress of His Empire.

Wishing more than ever to afford especial protection to commerce and agriculture,

to regulate the administration of justice, and to place it generally on a serious and radical basis having regard to the real necessities and the position of his vast states, His Imperial Majesty has just worthily crowned his work of high justice and equity by decreeing these new reforms of which I propose to explain the drift, and to make especially a succinct analysis respecting their importance and their practical utility for the financial and recent progress of the Empire.

In the first rank comes the reorganization of justice.

The united principle of the general constitution of the judicial authorities and of the separate constitution of each of our Tribunals, has been, for some years back, decreed and carried out in Turkey. The High Court of Justice, comprising the Courts of Appeal and Bankruptcy, and having under its direct jurisdiction the Tribunals of First Instance, has performed its duties, as you are aware, under the control of a set of codes suited to the customs of the country, and in unison also with the requirements of the times.

Side by side with this system, the Tribunals of the Chéri have likewise carried on their duties, invested with the same judicial powers and properties, the classification excepted, but differing, in some essential points, under the head of legal dispositions and manner of proceeding.

It was necessary, therefore, while confirming and respecting the law of the Chéri and the application thereof, a law of which the ancient traditions, the enlightened doctrines, and the entirely conciliatory dispositions, all equitable and conscientious, have been the means of maintaining intact the fundamental principles of justice, and the institutions of the country, it was necessary, I repeat, in presence of the conflicts of jurisdiction, and the contradictory dispositions which showed themselves in the respective attributions, and in the working, properly so-called, of the Tribunals of the Chéri and the Nizamyés, to define clearly the duties of each, so as to maintain, as much as possible, the uniformity of the jurisprudence, the regularity of the proceedings, and to put a check on the natural encroachments of power.

It is with this legitimate and salutary object that the Imperial Firman, as you will have the goodness to observe, separates the High Court from the direct control hitherto exercised over it by the Ministry of Justice; establishes the permanency of the Judges, except in the case of well-founded dismissal, with regulations fixing their right to a pension; places under the jurisdiction of the same Court the Tribunals of Commerce, which did belong to the Ministry of Commerce; designates the Naïbs for the Presidency of the Courts of Appeal of the chief towns of the provinces, that these latter may be in a position to examine, separately and independently of their civil functions, and in relation to the Chéri alone, sentences passed by the Tribunals of the Chéri; then to take cognizance, in their quality of Presidents of the Tribunals of the Nizamyé, and as a last appeal, of all affairs civil, correctional, and criminal, properly so-called. The Firman refers, and this is the essential point which separates definitely, as I mentioned above, the respective duties, refers, I say, to the High Court of Justice and to its dependent Tribunals suits between Mussulmans and Christians and other communities, or between these last and the Christians, or between the Non-Mussulman communities themselves. What are reserved to the Chéri, are only the suits between the Mussulman subjects.

In order to make such a radical innovation harmonize with the new state of things, so as not to clash too much, *ex abrupto,* with legitimate reciprocal susceptibilities, and to bring immediately into practice the difference and the definition of the powers and prerogatives thus established, the different laws and regulations must be modified so as to bring about a uniform and regular system of procedure.

To complete this edifice of judicial fragments, and to grant to His faithful and loyal subjects in the provinces the greater share in all measures tending to protect their interests, honour, and property, His Imperial Majesty has deigned to authorise them themselves to elect the members of the tribunals, as well as those of the provincial administrative councils, and to place them thus in a position to see all the public guarantees of administration, order, and justice entrusted to the patriotism and the devotedness of their representatives, chosen freely by themselves, and without any intervention of the authorities. Thus the composition of these councils and tribunals offers by means of these local elections the desired guarantees, and without a blow being struck the axiom of eternal equality, "locus regit actum," is put into practice; such has been the motive which has dictated the measures. It is needless to say that the composition of the said councils and tribunals, with the mode of election which has just been pointed out, will, without loss of time, be clearly defined by special instructions.

The Tribunals of Commerce having, as I said above, been removed from the autho-

rity of the Ministry of Commerce, henceforth this administration will have exclusively to attend to the improvements tending to develop commerce in the Empire, to avert all impediments which check its extension, and, above all, to put into practice every measure possible for encouraging and advancing agriculture, which is the chief resource destined to ensure the richness of the country, and to which its geographical position, its fertility, and the thoroughly laborious and agricultural dispositions of its populations are so admirably adapted.

Your Excellency will no doubt gather from a perusal of the Imperial Firman the extent of the solicitude devoted to the reform of the assessment of the taxes.

Practically, experience shows daily that the variety of contributions in all parts of the Empire in general, and in certain parts in particular, where the roads and communications are not yet properly established, and where, consequently, a rigorous and unceasing control cannot yet be practised, this variety, I say, occasions daily difficulties and complications in the mode of the assessment and collection of the taxes. Originally the populations were under a simpler system of taxation, which had not as many branches as there are now. It is true that consumption, and consequently the revenue returns, increase in proportion to the welfare of the inhabitants and the wants of civilization; but these necessities of comfort and luxury are as yet unknown to the greater portion of our populations, one of whose essential qualities is temperance, joined to a love of agricultural labour, and who, consequently, would not easily divest themselves of their old patriarchal customs. Under these circumstances the imposition of taxes upon articles of consumption and upon habits of society, which may be said not to exist as yet, and of which the usage has not yet penetrated among the masses, would be to raise impediments in the way of collecting the taxes, to create causes of suffering for the taxpayers, and consequently an anomalous state of things. This is precisely the present state of affairs among us, and it is this that has made the Imperial Government think of lightening as much as possible, as has been done quite recently in the case of the additional quarter of the tithe, certain taxes which weigh heavily on the populations without affording any real advantage to the Treasury, and of simplifying still more the assessment of the tax, by consolidating it in a just proportion, and by thus freeing from all obstacles the mode of assessment and collection.

With these ideas, and in order to give at once to the projected system a commencement of execution His Imperial Majesty has been pleased, in his sentiments of fatherly solicitude, to devolve upon his subjects themselves the duties of the collection of the impost in their midst by means of collectors of their own choice, without the zaptiés (police) being permitted henceforth, as has been the case hitherto, to interfere in any way in the collection of the taxes.

The same generous intentions have, simultaneously with this privilege, prompted the order that the zaptiés, whose selection has unfortunately not been always as carefully attended to as ought to be the case, and has given rise to numerous complaints and vexatious proceedings, shall for the future be chosen from among persons in whom the requisite qualities are united, and who enjoy more especially the esteem and the confidence of their fellow-citizens.

These measures, the importance and efficiency of which will not escape the attention of your Excellency, taken in connection with the Decree ordering the surrounding with more guarantees of the system of "prestation" (payment in kind), by absolutely forbidding forced labour in general and forced requisitions, prove indisputably that the Sublime Porte, while proclaiming the great principles of equality and of justice, has had more especially in view the putting of these principles into practice without delay, and the issuing of injunctions for the immediate execution of the same, reserving to itself the extension of the full measure of these advantages in due proportion to their application. It is this point, in particular, that your Excellency should develop and enlarge upon, so as to silence our detractors by convincing and tangible reasons.

The portion of the Imperial Rescript which frees the delivery of title deeds of real property from the complicated machinery of the jurisdiction of the Evkaf, by entrusting these powers to the Direction Générale of the Archives, the Department where the system of registration is best conducted, will put an end to difficulties of all kinds which constantly arose from the various systems of delivery prevailing in different provinces, and from the absence of these documents in several others.

The tax on exemption from military service raised from the non-Mussulman subjects of the Empire undergoes in its turn a serious reform. What can be more just than the generous act by which our august Master fixes eminently equitable limits to the collection of this tax, which will in future only fall on the taxpayers between the ages

of twenty to forty years, whereas hitherto this tax took no limit of age into consideration. Again, is it not a new, a beneficial, and a serious reform to ease that part of the population which sheds its blood for the throne and the country of the half of a tax of the same nature, which weighed so heavily upon it? Such measures call for no comment, so obvious are they, and destined to produce an immediate effect.

But what is, without fear of contradiction, most worthy of remark, and should consequently produce the best results, if we view it in the light of social and practical economy, is the abolition of a customary usage, in accordance with which the inhabitants of certain localities did not possess land. Practically, the Christian inhabitants of these localities, though not precisely bound to the seignorial glebe, as formerly the serfs were in Europe, could only, in a certain degree, enjoy the produce of these lands, without being able to acquire them. An agrarian law, such as was in practice of yore, and in our own time, in certain countries, could not fail, if applied in a similar manner among us, to cause great disturbances in the relations of proprietors with peasants, as has been shown by experience wherever such a practice was essayed. Moreover we could not entertain the idea, opposed as it is to morality and to public rights, in consequence of the character of spoliation which attaches to it. The Sublime Porte has, therefore, limited itself to the measure which has just been decreed, viz., that of giving entire liberty to the peasants of the said localities to become proprietors. It is clear, and the future will soon triumphantly prove it, that freed from all impediments and all local restrictions, the agricultural population will find ample means wherewith to purchase the considerable quantity of uncultivated lands which exist, and which only want cultivation. Again, on the other hand, this population will, in the new state of affairs, and in virtue of the dispositions of a special law, of which the text will shortly be transmitted to you, become easily and naturally proprietors of the lands which are daily sold by auction in these districts, which sales, after the Decree of the new measure, will continue to be held on a still larger scale, since the actual proprietors, in consequence of the enfranchisement of their *quasi* vassals, will experience a lack of hands for the working of their lands, and will find themselves, consequently, obliged to compound with their farmers.

Your Excellency will readily understand that thus all eventualities likely to bring about regrettable incidents will be *ipso facto* averted, and the wished-for result will be equally attained with more certainty and more rapidity.

Lastly, the privileges and immunities granted *ab antiquo* to non-Mussulman communities and to their special chiefs are by the same sovereign acts not only confirmed in a solemn manner, but have in addition received a still stronger guarantee in the new facilities granted, without any restriction, for the construction of their churches, their schools, and all their other national establishments. Further, testamentary dispositions, which hitherto were subject to the law of the Chéri, and had to receive its sanction before coming valid, are now freed from this obligation, and as a logical consequence of the reasons which have militated in favour of the separation of the powers and attributes of the respective tribunals, they will be purely and simply respected such as they are, that is to say they will be legally binding, except in the case of pleadings against guardians and executors, in which case the Administration must, of course, intervene.

Such, M. l'Ambassadeur, are the radical reforms which have just been solemnly decreed.

The Imperial Government is firmly decided to insist on their strict and immediate execution; and confiding in the friendship and just appreciation of the Court of St. James, it is confident that these reforms, and specially the feelings of spontaneous and generous solicitude of our august Sovereign which have dictated them, will meet with their entire approval.

We have conscientiously fulfilled the duties incumbent on us in view of the necessities and the situation of the Empire; we will in the future, also, devote all our efforts to insuring more and more the well-being of our faithful and laborious populations, and to developing these reforms more and more, in proportion to the moral and material progress of the country. We have only one more wish to record, and that is, to see the unhappy misled people of the Herzegovine soon return to the course of obedience, so as to enjoy in their turn, and in conjunction with their fellow citizens of the other parts of the Empire, the favours so generously accorded by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to all his subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RASCHID.

No. 55.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, January* 3.)

Buda-Pest, le 30 *Décembre*, 1875.

DÈS l'origine des troubles de l'Herzégovine, les Cabinets Européens intéressés à la paix générale ont dû fixer leurs regards sur des événements qui menaçaient de la mettre en péril.

Les trois Cours d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Russie, et d'Allemagne, après avoir échangé leurs vues à cet égard, se sont unies pour employer en commun leurs efforts d'apaisement.

Ce but semblait trop conforme au vœu général pour qu'invités à s'y associer par l'organe de leurs Représentants à Constantinople, les autres Cabinets ne se soient pas empressés de joindre leurs efforts aux nôtres.

Les Puissances se sont mises d'accord pour user de toute l'influence dont elles disposent, afin de localiser le conflit et d'en diminuer les dangers et les calamités en empêchant la Serbie et le Monténégro de participer au mouvement.

Leur langage a été d'autant plus efficace qu'il a été identique, et a, par conséquent, témoigné de la ferme volonté de l'Europe de ne point permettre que la paix générale fût mise en péril par des entraînements irréfléchis.

Les Cabinets ont en outre offert au Gouvernement Turc les bons offices de leurs Agents Consulaires pour concourir à l'apaisement de l'insurrection. En poursuivant cette tâche, ils ont eu soin également d'éviter toute ingérence et de ménager la dignité, les droits, et l'autorité du Souverain.

Les Délégués ne devaient pas s'ériger en commission d'enquête ni se faire les avocats des vœux des populations insurgées. Ils avaient pour mission de leur ôter toute illusion quant à une assistance du dehors, et de les exhorter à se disperser, après avoir exposé leurs vœux et leurs griefs. Les Puissances se réservaient seulement de soutenir auprès du Gouvernement Turc celles des demandes des insurgés qui seraient trouvées légitimes; cette action conciliante des Cabinets attestait suffisamment l'intention amicale qui avait présidé à leurs bons offices. Elle témoignait qu'à leurs yeux il y avait une solidarité complète dans les intérêts de l'Europe, de la Porte, et des populations insurgées, afin de mettre un terme à une lutte ruineuse et sanglante et d'en prévenir le retour par des réformes sérieuses et des améliorations efficaces de nature à concilier les besoins réels du pays avec les légitimes exigences de l'autorité.

Tel est en peu de mots l'historique de l'action exercée par les Puissances depuis que l'insurrection a éclaté.

Les Cabinets ont été jusqu'à ce jour guidés surtout par le désir d'éviter tout ce qui eût pu être interprété comme une ingérence prématurée de l'Europe.

Dans cet ordre d'idées tous les Cabinets se sont bornés à conseiller au Gouvernement du Sultan de ne pas s'en tenir aux seules mesures militaires, mais de s'attacher à combattre le mal par des moyens moraux destinés à prévenir des perturbations futures.

En agissant ainsi les Cabinets avaient en vue de fournir à la Sublime Porte l'appui moral dont elle avait besoin, et de lui donner en outre le temps de pacifier les esprits dans les provinces soulevées, espérant que tout danger d'une complication ultérieure se trouverait ainsi écarté.

Malheureusement leurs espérances ont été déçues. D'un côté, les réformes publiées par la Porte ne semblent pas avoir eu en vue l'apaisement des populations des provinces insurgées, ni être suffisantes pour atteindre ce but essentiel. De l'autre, les armes Turques n'ont pas réussi à mettre fin à l'insurrection.

Dans ces circonstances nous croyons que le moment est venu pour les Puissances de convenir d'une marche à suivre en commun, afin d'empêcher que le mouvement en se prolongeant ne finisse par compromettre la paix de l'Europe.

De même que les autres Puissances nous avons applaudi aux bienveillantes intentions qui ont inspirés les récents manifestes du Sultan, l'Iradé du 2 Octobre et le Firman du 12 Décembre contiennent une série de principes destinés à introduire des réformes dans l'organisation de l'Europe Ottoman. Il y a lieu de croire que ces principes, s'ils sont traduits en dispositions législatives sagement conçues, et si surtout leur mise en pratique correspond pleinement aux vues éclairées qui les ont dictés, apporteront de sérieuses améliorations dans l'administration de la Turquie.

Nous ne pouvons nous dissimuler toutefois que les réformes annoncées ne sauraient, à elles seules, avoir pour effet d'arrêter, même momentanément, l'effusion du sang dans l'Herzégovine et la Bosnie, ni à plus forte raison d'asseoir sur des bases solides le repos futur de ces parties du territoire Ottoman.

En effet, si l'on examine le contenu de l'Iradé du 2 Octobre et du Firman du 12

Décembre, on ne peut s'empêcher de reconnaître que la Sublime Porte semble s'être préoccupée plus de principes généraux qui, lorsqu'ils auront été précisés, pourront servir de bases à l'administration de l'Empire, que de la pacification des provinces aujourd'hui soulevées.

Or, il est de l'intérêt du Gouvernement Ottoman que la pacification soit assurée avant tout; car tant qu'elle ne sera pas obtenu, il serait impossible de mettre en vigueur les principes même que la Porte a proclamées.

D'un autre côté, l'état d'anarchie qui sévit dans les provinces nord-ouest de la Turquie n'implique pas seulement des difficultés pour la Sublime Porte, il recèle aussi de graves dangers pour la paix générale, et les divers Etats Européens ne sauraient voir d'un œil indifférent se perpétuer et s'aggraver une situation qui, dès à présent, pèse lourdement sur le commerce et l'industrie, et qui, en ébranlant chaque jour davantage la confiance du public dans la conservation de la paix, tend à compromettre tous les intérêts.

Aussi croyons-nous remplir un devoir impérieux en appelant la sérieuse attention des Puissances Garantes sur la nécessité de recommander à la Sublime Porte de compléter son action par telles mesures qui paraissent indispensables pour rétablir l'ordre et la tranquillité dans les provinces ravagées en ce moment par le fléau de la guerre civile.

A la suite d'un échange confidentiel d'idées qui a eu lieu entre nous et les Cabinets de St. Pétersbourg et de Berlin, il a été reconnu que ces mesures doivent être recherchées dans une double direction. D'abord sur le terrain moral, et en second lieu sur le terrain matériel.

En effet, l'état matériel même des habitants Chrétiens de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine est dû, en dernière analyse, à leur position sociale et morale.

En examinant les causes fondamentales de la situation pénible où l'Herzégovine et la Bosnie se débattent depuis tant d'années, on est frappé tout d'abord des sentiments d'inimitié et de rancune qui animent les habitants Chrétiens et Mahométans, les uns contre les autres. C'est cette disposition des esprits qui a rendu impossible à nos délégués de persuader aux Chrétiens que les Autorités Turques pouvaient avoir la volonté sincère de redresser leurs griefs. Il n'est peut-être pas de contrée dans la Turquie d'Europe où l'antagonisme qui existe entre la croix et le croissant prenne des formes aussi acerbes. Cette haine fanatique et cette méfiance doivent être attribuées au voisinage de peuples de même race jouissant de la plénitude de cette liberté religieuse dont les Chrétiens de l'Herzégovine et de la Bosnie se voient privés. La comparaison incessante fait qu'ils ont le sentiment d'être courbés sous le joug d'une véritable servitude, que le nom même de räia semble les placer dans une position moralement inférieure à celle de leurs voisins, qu'en un mot, ils se sentent esclaves.

Plus d'une fois, l'Europe a eu à se préoccuper de leurs plaintes et des moyens d'y mettre un terme. Le Hatti-Houmaïoum de 1856 est un des fruits de la sollicitude des Puissances. Mais aux termes même de cet acte, la liberté des cultes est encore limitée par des clauses qui, surtout en Bosnie et dans l'Herzégovine, sont maintenues avec une rigueur qui chaque année provoquait de nouveaux conflits. La construction des édifices consacrés au culte et à l'enseignement, l'usage des cloches, la constitution de communautés religieuses se trouvent encore assujettis dans ces provinces à des entraves qui apparaissent aux Chrétiens comme autant de souvenirs toujours vivaces de la guerre de conquête qui ne leur font voir dans les Musulmans que des ennemis de leur foi, et perpétuent en eux l'impression qu'ils vivent sous le joug d'un esclavage qu'on a le droit et le devoir de sécouer.

Le dernier Firman touche bien ce point de la liberté de religion, ainsi que l'avaient déjà fait du reste le Hatti-Chérif de 1839, le Hatti-Houmaïoum de 1856, et d'autres actes émanées de la Sublime Porte. Il confirme les pouvoirs dont sont investis les patriarches et autres chefs spirituels pour les affaires de leurs communautés respectives et pour le libre exercice de leurs cultes; mais il leur assigne "pour limites les droits et autorisations qui leur ont été octroyés." Il promet aussi des facilités pour la construction des églises et des écoles, promesse qui a été plus d'une fois consignée dans des documents officiels, mais qui ne saurait tranquilliser parce que sa réalisation dépend des autorités provinciales qui, subissant la pression locale, ne pourront même les mettre à exécution, à moins que le principe ne soit hautement proclamé.

Le Firman qui vient d'être promulgué ne dépasse donc point la mesure de ce qui a été accordé par le Hatti-Houmayoum, lequel, ainsi que je l'ai fait ressortir plus haut, entoure la liberté religieuse de restrictions qui, dans le cours de ces dernières années, ont provoqué de nombreux conflits. Rétrécies comme elles le sont, les concessions dont il s'agit ont toujours été insuffisantes pour contenter les Chrétiens. A plus forte raison en sera-t il ainsi aujourd'hui, après les événements qui sont venu ensanglanter le pays et qui n'ont fait qu'envénimer l'antagonisme qui sépare les deux croyances. Une fois l'insurrection étouffée,

l'élément Mahométan se considérant comme vainqueur, cherchera sans doute à se venger sur les Chrétiens des pertes qu'une lutte aussi violente lui a fait subir. Un état de choses qui rende possible la coexistence des populations qui viennent de se combattre avec tant d'acharnement ne pourra donc être assuré que si la religion Chrétienne est placée en droit et en fait sur un pied d'égalité complète avec l'Islamisme, que si elle est hautement reconnue et respectée et non pas tolérée, comme elle l'est aujourd'hui. C'est pourquoi les Puissances Garantes doivent selon nous non seulement demander à la Porte, mais obtenir d'elle comme première et principale concession, une liberté religieuse pleine et entière.

L'égalité devant la loi est un principe explicitement proclamé dans le Hatti-Houmayoum et consacré par la législation. C'est sans doute pour cette raison que les actes récents du Sultan ont omis d'en faire mention.

Mais, tout en étant obligatoire en droit, ce principe n'est pas encore généralement appliqué dans tout l'Empire. De fait, le témoignage des Chrétiens contre les Musulmans est accueilli par les Tribunaux de Constantinople et de la plupart des autres grandes villes, mais dans quelques Provinces éloignées, telles que l'Herzégovine et la Bosnie, les Juges se refusent à en reconnaître la validité. Il importerait donc de prendre des mesures pratiques, pour qu'à l'avenir les Chrétiens n'aient pas à redouter des dénis de justice.

Un autre point qui appelle un remède urgent c'est le fermage des contributions. Déjà le Hatti-Chérif de 1839, en parlant de ce système, s'exprimait dans les termes suivants : "Un usage funeste subsiste encore, quoiqu'il ne puisse avoir que des conséquences désastreuses : c'est celui des concessions vénales connues sous le nom d'Iltizan. Dans ce système l'administration civile et financière d'une localité est livrée à l'arbitraire d'un seul homme, c'est-à-dire, quelquefois à la main de fer des passions les plus violentes et les plus cupides."

Et le Hatti-Houmayoum de 1856 porte ce qui suit : "On avisera aux moyens les plus prompts et les plus énergiques de corriger les abus dans la perception des impôts, notamment des dîmes. Le système de la perception directe sera successivement et aussitôt que faire se pourra substitué au régime des fermes dans toutes les branches du revenu de l'Etat."

Malgré ces déclarations formelles le système du fermage est encore debout dans toute son étendue.

Aujourd'hui la Sublime Porte fait entrevoir des réformes dans cette direction, mais sans rien préciser. Le Firman du 12 Décembre qualifie de nouveau d'anormal le régime de perception des contributions actuellement en vigueur. Il ordonne de rechercher un mode d'unification des impôts. Il prescrit encore de prendre des mesures "pour prévenir l'arbitraire dans la perception de la dîme par l'intermédiaire des fermiers," mais il n'abolit pas le fermage.

Si l'on veut donc enlever à l'insurrection un aliment essentiel et incessant, l'un des points qu'il faut demander à la Porte, c'est qu'elle émette la déclaration nette et catégorique que le régime du fermage des contributions est supprimé, non seulement de droit mais de fait, pour la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine, et il faut que cette mesure reçoive une application immédiate.

Une des causes qui aggravent encore le fardeau matériellement, déjà si lourd, des impôts en Bosnie et dans l'Herzégovine, c'est que les habitants se croient exploités financièrement au profit du centre. Ils ont la conviction que le rendement des contributions n'est point consacré à subvenir aux nécessités de la province elle-même, mais que le total des sommes recueillies est immédiatement dirigé sur Constantinople pour être employé à l'usage du Gouvernement central.

Il serait donc nécessaire d'alléger moralement le poids des charges que la province a à supporter, en obtenant que, sans préjudice de ce qu'exigent les dépenses de l'Empire, une partie du produit des taxes payées par la Province soit réservée à des destinations profitables à ses propres intérêts.

Dans ce but la Porte devrait déclarer que le revenu des contributions indirectes serait, comme par le passé, affecté aux besoins de l'Empire tout entier, mais que les fonds provenant des contributions directes resteraient dans la province et seraient exclusivement appliqués dans son intérêt, à féconder ses ressources et à augmenter son bien-être.

L'exécution de cette disposition devrait être placée sous le contrôle de la Commission Elective dont il va être question dans le cours de ce travail.

La triste condition des Chrétiens de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine tient en grande partie à la nature des rapports qui existent entre la population des campagnes et les propriétaires fonciers. Les difficultés agraires ont toujours eu un caractère tout particulier d'aigreur dans les pays où la classe des propriétaires diffère, soit par la religion, soit par la nationalité, de la masse des cultivateurs. On n'a que trop d'exemples des luttes passionnées qui ont été la conséquence d'une situation pareille.

Dans les Provinces dont nous nous occupons la presque totalité des terres qui n'appartiennent pas à l'Etat ou aux mosquées se trouve entre les mains des Musulmans, tandis que la classe agricole se compose de Chrétiens des deux rites. La question agraire s'y complique donc de l'antagonisme religieux.

Après la répression de la première insurrection des Cegs de Bosnie en 1851, le servage a été aboli ; mais ainsi qu'il arrive souvent en pareil cas, cette mesure, au lieu d'alléger la condition des paysans n'a fait que l'aggraver. Ils ne sont plus traités par ceux-çi avec les mêmes ménagements qu'autrefois. Aujourd'hui il n'y a plus en présence que deux intérêts et deux religions antagonistes. A partir du moment où la disparition du régime féodal est venu transformer les anciens serfs en fermiers ou métayers, les pratiques excessives des propriétaires ont provoqué de nombreux soulèvements partiels ou généraux. Un mouvement de ce genre ayant éclaté en 1858 dans le nord de la Bosnie, la Porte s'est trouvée amenée à s'occuper des contestations qui y avaient donné lieu. Des délégués des deux parties furent mandés à Constantinople, et après de longs pourparlers, dans lesquels l'intercession officieuse de l'Internonce de Sa Majesté l'Empereur et Roi eut sa part, un firman du Sultan fut obtenu dont les dispositions semblèrent à cette époque propres à concilier assez heureusement les intérêts des agriculteurs fonciers. Toutefois ce firman n'a jamais été mis en vigueur.

Il y aurait lieu d'examiner si quelques unes des dispositions de ce document ne pourraient pas aujourd'hui encore servir de point de départ à un arrangement équitable, apte à améliorer la condition de la population rurale, ou s'il conviendrait de faire intervenir le trésor public pour faciliter l'exécution des mesures à prendre dans ce but, à l'instar de ce qui a eu lieu, il y a une vingtaine d'années, en Bulgarie, où les charges foncières ont été rachetées au moyen de l'émission de titres publics dits *sekims*. Nous sentons que la tâche est difficile et que son accomplissement ne saurait être l'œuvre d'un jour ; mais nous croyons qu'il est important d'y travailler, afin d'améliorer le sort de la population rurale dans la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine, et de fermer ainsi une des plaies béantes de l'état social de ces provinces. Il ne nous paraîtrait pas impossible de trouver une combinaison qui permît graduellement aux paysans de se rendre acquéreurs, à des conditions peu onéreuses, de parcelles de terrains incultes que l'état mettait en vente. Tout en continuant, s'ils le désiraient, à cultiver à titre de fermiers les propriétés de leurs compatriotes Musulmans, ils arriveraient successivement à posséder eux-mêmes un petit immeuble qui leur assurerait une certaine indépendance, et les mettrait à l'ordre de leurs exactions.

Si l'on songe au peu de créance que rencontrent auprès des populations Chrétiennes les promesses de la Sublime Porte, on ne peut se dissimuler que les réformes promulguées ne pourront inspirer la confiance nécessaire qu'à condition que l'on crée en même temps une institution propre à offrir une certaine garantie que ces réformes seront sérieusement appliquées. En se bornant à remettre leur exécution à la discrétion des Gouvernements de la Province, on ne parviendrait pas à surmonter la méfiance dont je parle. Il y aurait donc lieu d'établir une Commission de notables du pays, composée par moitié de Musulmans et de Chrétiens, et élue par les habitants de la Province suivant un mode qui serait déterminé par la Sublime Porte.

Je viens d'exposer les points dont il faudrait obtenir l'application aux Provinces soulevées pour pouvoir se liver à l'espoir fondé d'une pacification.

Ces points, les voici :

La liberté religieuse, pleine et entière ;

L'abolition du fermage des impôts ;

Une loi qui garantisse que le produit des contributions directes de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine soit employé dans l'intérêt de la Province même, sous le contrôle des organes constituées dans le sens du Firman du 12 Décembre :

L'institution d'une Commission Spéciale, composée en nombre égal de Musulmans et de Chrétiens, pour contrôler l'exécution des réformes proposées par les Puissances, ainsi que de celles qui ont été proclamées dans l'Iradé du 2 Octobre, et dans le Firman du 12 Décembre ;

Enfin l'amélioration de la situation agraire des populations rurales.

Les premiers points pourraient et devraient être réalisés immédiatement par la Sublime Porte, le cinquième graduellement aussitôt que faire se pourra.

Si indépendamment de ces concessions, qui nous paraissent les plus essentielles, la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine obtiennent encore les réformes suivantes indiquées dans le dernier Firman, un conseil provincial et des tribunaux librement élus par les habitants, l'inamovibilité des juges, la justice laïque, la liberté individuelle, la garantie contre le mauvais traitement, la réorganisation de la police dont les agissements ont soulevé tant de plaintes, la cessation des abus auxquels donnent lieu les prestations pour des travaux d'utilité publique, une juste réduction de la taxe d'exemption du service militaire, les

garanties à donner au droit de propriété;—si toutes ces réformes dont nous demandons la communication par la Porte, pour en prendre acte solennellement, sont appliquées dans les provinces insurgées, qui, à en juger par le texte du Firman, sembleraient ne pas devoir en bénéficier dès à présent, on pourrait espérer de voir ramener la paix dans ces contrées désolées.

Je me résume. Les promesses indéfinies de l'Iradé du 2 Octobre et du Firman du 12 Décembre ne pourront qu'exalter les aspirations sans les contenter. D'un autre côté il est à constater que les armes de la Turquie n'ont pas réussi à mettre fin à l'insurrection. L'hiver a suspendu l'action, le printemps la verra renaître. La conviction que, le printemps venu, de nouveaux éléments fortifieront l'action, que la Bulgarie, les Crétois, &c., viendront grossir le mouvement, est générale parmi les Chrétiens. Quoiqu'il en soit, il est à prévoir que les Gouvernements de Serbie et du Monténégro, qui, jusqu'à ce jour déjà, ont eu bien de la peine à se tenir à l'écart du mouvement, seront impuissants à résister au courant, et dès à présent, sous l'influence des événements et de l'opinion publique dans leurs pays, ils semblent s'être familiarisés avec l'idée de prendre part à la lutte, à la fonte des neiges.

En présence de cette situation, la tâche des Puissances, qui dans l'intérêt de la paix générale veulent écarter les complications ultérieures, devient bien difficile. L'Autriche-Hongrie et les deux autres Cours Impériales, en suite d'un échange d'idées confidentiel, se sont rencontrées dans la conviction que, si l'on se bornait à attendre l'effet des principes proclamés par le dernier Firman—principes qui d'ailleurs, dans l'intention de la Porte, ne semblent pas devoir être immédiatement appliqués aux pays soulevés, on n'obtiendrait d'autre résultat que de voir le conflit prendre une plus grande extension au sortir de l'hiver. Les trois Cabinets pensent donc que l'unique chance d'éviter de nouvelles complications se trouve dans une manifestation émanant des Puissances et constatant leur ferme résolution d'arrêter le mouvement qui menace d'entraîner l'Orient.

Or, ce but ne saurait être atteint par le seul moyen d'une injonction à l'adresse des Gouvernements Princiers et des populations Chrétiennes sujettes du Sultan. Pour que cette action très difficile en elle-même ait une chance de réussite, il importe absolument que les Puissances soient à même d'en appeler à des actes clairs, indiscutables, pratiques, et spécialement propres à améliorer la situation de l'Herzégovine et de la Bosnie; en un mot que leur action puisse s'appuyer sur des faits et non sur des programmes. Ce n'est qu'ainsi que les Cabinets se trouveront en mesure de faire valoir avec vigueur leurs conseils pacifiques.

Il est une autre difficulté—et c'est la plus grande—qu'il faut surmonter à tout prix, si l'on veut pouvoir compter sur un résultat tant soit peu favorable. Cette difficulté, c'est la défiance profondément enracinée que toute promesse de la Porte rencontre auprès des Chrétiens. Une des causes principales de cette méfiance doit être recherchée dans le fait que plus d'une mesure annoncée dans les derniers rescrits du Sultan a déjà été proclamée dans des hatti-chérifs antérieurs sans que le sort des Chrétiens en ait éprouvé une amélioration appréciable.

Aussi les Cabinets croient-ils absolument nécessaire d'obtenir que le Gouvernement du Sultan confirme, au moyen d'une Commission officielle, ses intentions consignées par rapport à l'ensemble de l'Empire dans l'Iradé du 2 Octobre et dans le Firman du 12 Décembre, et qu'il notifie en même temps aux Puissances son acceptation des points ci-dessus mentionnés, qui ont pour objet spécial la pacification des provinces insurgées.

Sans doute que par ce moyen les Chrétiens n'obtiendraient pas la forme de garantie qu'ils semblent réclamer en ce moment, mais ils trouveraient une sécurité relative dans le fait même que les réformes octroyées seraient reconnues indispensables par les Puissances, et que la Porte aurait pris envers l'Europe l'engagement de les mettre à exécution.

Telle est la ferme conviction sortie d'un échange d'idées préalable entre les Cabinets d'Autriche-Hongrie, de Russie, et d'Allemagne.

Votre Excellence est chargée de porter ce point de vue à la connaissance du Cabinet de St. James, et d'obtenir son concours à l'œuvre de paix dont tous nos efforts tendent à assurer le succès.

Si, comme je l'espère, les vues du Gouvernement Anglais se rencontrent avec les nôtres, nous lui proposerions par égard pour la dignité et l'indépendance de la Porte de ne point adresser à celle-ci nos conseils dans une note collective, mais de nous borner à inviter nos Représentants à Constantinople à agir conjointement et d'une manière identique auprès du Gouvernement du Sultan dans le sens que nous venons de développer.

Vous voudrez bien, M. le Comte, donner lecture de la présente dépêche à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et lui en laisser copie; et je vous serais reconnaissant de me faire connaître aussitôt que possible l'impression qu'elle aura faite sur son Excellence.

Recevez, &c.

(Translation.)

Buda-Pest, December 30, 1875.

SINCE the commencement of the troubles in the Herzegovina, the European Cabinets interested in the general peace have been compelled to fix their attention on the on the occurrences which threatened to endanger it.

The three Courts of Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Germany, after exchanging their views on this subject, have united for the purpose of employing in common their efforts for pacification.

This object appeared too much in conformity with the general wish for them to doubt that the other Cabinets, when invited to associate themselves in the movement through their Representatives at Constantinople, would hasten to join their efforts to ours.

The Powers have come to an agreement to make use of all the influence at their disposal in order to localize the conflict, and diminish its dangers and calamities by preventing Servia and Montenegro from participating in the movement.

Their language has been the more effectual from being identic, and has, consequently, testified the firm determination of Europe not to permit the general peace to be imperilled by rash impulses.

The Cabinets, moreover, have offered to the Turkish Government the good offices of their Consular Agents to assist in putting an end to the insurrection. In the pursuit of this object, they have been equally careful to avoid all meddling, and to guard the dignity, rights, and authority of the Sovereign.

The Delegates were not authorized to constitute themselves a Commission of Inquiry, or to make themselves the advocates of the wishes of the insurgent populations. Their mission was to undeceive them as to any assistance to be expected from without, and to exhort them to disperse after setting forth their wishes and grievances. The Powers merely reserved the power of urging on the Turkish Government such of the demands of the insurgents as should appear to be legitimate. This conciliatory action of the Cabinets sufficiently testified to the friendly intention which had inspired their good offices. It showed that in their eyes there existed a complete identity in the interests of Europe, of the Porte, and of the insurgent populations, to put an end to a ruinous and sanguinary conflict, and to prevent its recurrence by serious reforms and effective improvements of a nature to reconcile the real necessities of the country with the legitimate requirements of authority.

Such is briefly the history of the proceedings of the Powers since the outbreak of the insurrection.

The Cabinets have till now been especially guided by the desire to avoid everything that could be construed as an unseasonable interference on the part of Europe.

Accordingly, all the Cabinets have confined themselves to recommending the Sultan not to trust solely to military measures, but to apply himself to combating the evil by moral means, with a view to avert future disturbances.

In acting thus, the Cabinets intended to furnish the Sublime Porte with the moral support of which it stood in need; and, further, to give it time to pacify feelings in the revolted provinces, hoping that all danger of ulterior complications might thus be averted.

Unfortunately their hopes have been disappointed. On the one hand, the reforms published by the Porte do not appear to have had in view the pacification of the populations of the insurgent provinces, or to be sufficient for the attainment of this essential object. On the other hand, the Turkish arms have not been successful in putting an end to the insurrection.

Under these circumstances, we think that the moment has arrived for the Powers to agree on a course to be pursued in common, to prevent the peace of Europe being ultimately compromised by a continuation of the movement.

In common with the other Powers, we have applauded the benevolent intentions which have inspired the recent manifestoes of the Sultan. The Iradé of October 2, and Firman of December 12, contain a series of principles intended to introduce reforms into the organization of the Ottoman Empire. There is reason to believe that these principles, if embodied in wisely-conceived legislative measures, and if, above all, their execution fully corresponds with the enlightened views which have dictated them, will introduce real ameliorations into the administration of Turkey.

We cannot, however, disguise from ourselves that the projected reforms cannot, by themselves, arrest, even momentarily, the shedding of blood in the Herzegovina and Bosnia, still less establish on a secure basis the future tranquillity of these portions of the Ottoman Empire.

In fact, on examination of the contents of the Iradé of October 2 and the Firman of December 12, one must acknowledge that the Sublime Porte appears to be engrossed

rather with general principles which, when they have been formulated, will serve as bases for the administration of the Empire, than with the pacification of the provinces at present in revolt.

Now, it is for the interest of the Ottoman Government that peace should, above all, be assured; for, so long as it is unsecured, it will be impossible to carry out even the principles which the Porte has proclaimed.

On the other hand, the state of anarchy which prevails in the provinces to the north-west of Turkey not only involves difficulties for the Sublime Porte, but also conceals grave danger to the general tranquillity; and the different European States cannot see with indifference the continuation and aggravation of a state of affairs which already weighs heavily on commerce and industry, and which, by daily shaking more and more the public confidence in the preservation of peace, tends to compromise the interests of all parties.

We, therefore, believe that we are fulfilling an imperative duty in calling the serious attention of the Guaranteeing Powers to the necessity of counselling the Sublime Porte to complete its undertaking by such measures as appear indispensable for the re-establishment of order and tranquillity in the provinces now ravaged by the scourge of civil war.

After a confidential exchange of ideas, which has taken place between ourselves and the Cabinets of St. Petersburgh and Berlin, it has been recognized that such measures must be sought for in a twofold direction—first, on a moral, and secondly, on a material, ground.

In fact, the material condition itself of the Christian inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina is primarily due to their social and moral position.

In examining the fundamental causes of the painful situation in which Herzegovina and Bosnia have been struggling for so many years, one is at once struck with the sentiments of enmity and rancour which animate the Christian and Mahommedan inhabitants against each other. It is in this frame of mind which has rendered it impossible for our delegates to persuade the Christians that the Turkish authorities could be sincerely disposed to redress their grievances. Perhaps there is no district of European Turkey where the antagonism which exists between the Cross and the Crescent takes such an acrimonious form. This fanatical hatred and distrust must be attributed to the proximity of populations of the same race in full enjoyment of that religious liberty of which the Herzegovinian and Bosnian Christians see themselves deprived. The effect of the incessant comparison is that they feel oppressed under the yoke of a real servitude, that the very name of rayah appears to place them in a position morally inferior to that of their neighbours, and that, in one word, they feel themselves slaves.

More than once Europe has had to occupy herself with their complaints, and with the methods for terminating them. The Hatti-Humayoum of 1856 is one of the results of the solicitude of the Powers. But, even by the terms of this Act, religious liberty is still limited by clauses which, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are enforced with a rigour which every year provokes new conflicts. The erection of buildings for religious and educational purposes, the use of bells, and the constitution of religious communities, are still subjected in these provinces to restrictions which appear to the Christians as so many tokens always before their eyes of that war of conquest which makes them see in the Mussulmans only the enemies of their faith, and perpetuates the impression that they live under the yoke of a slavery that it is their right and their duty to shake off.

The last Firman certainly touches this point of liberty of religion, as indeed the Hatti-Chérif of 1839, the Hatti-Houmayoum of 1856, and other acts emanating from the Sublime Porte, had already done. It confirms the powers with which the patriarchs and other spiritual heads are invested for the affairs of their respective communities and the free exercise of their religions; but it assigns to them "as limitations the rights and authorisations which have been accorded to them." It promises also facilities for the construction of churches and schools, a promise which has been more than once notified in official documents, but which cannot be re-assuring, because its realization depends on provincial authorities, who, being exposed to local pressure, could not even carry them into execution, unless the principle be clearly laid down.

The Firman, then, which has just been promulgated, goes no farther than what has already been accorded by the Hatti-Houmayoum, which, as I have already made apparent, surrounds religious liberty with restrictions, which, during the last few years, have provoked numerous conflicts. With such restrictions, the concessions in question have always been insufficient to content the Christians. All the more will this be the case now, after the events which have happened to lacerate the country, and which have only envenomed the antagonism which separates the two creeds, the insurrection once suppressed, the Mahommedan element considering itself as conqueror, will doubtless seek to avenge upon the Christians the losses to which

so severe a contest has subjected it. A state of affairs which should render possible the co-existence of populations who have just been fighting with so much fury, can only be assured if the Christian religion be placed in law and in fact on a complete footing of equality with Islamism, and be openly recognized and respected, and not merely tolerated as it is at present. For this reason, as it appears to us, the guaranteeing power ought not only to demand of the Porte, but obtain from it as the first and principal concession, full and complete religious liberty.

Equality before the law is a principle expressly proclaimed in the Hatti-Houmayoum, and sanctioned by legislation. Doubtless it is for this reason that the recent decrees of the Sultan have omitted to mention it.

But, whilst legally obligatory, this principle is not yet generally applied throughout the Empire. As a matter of fact, the evidence of Christians against Mussulmans is received by the tribunals of Constantinople, and the majority of the large towns, but in some distant provinces, such as Herzegovia and Bosnia, the judges refuse to recognize its validity. It would be important then to take practical steps to relieve the Christians in future from the fear of a denial of justice.

Another point which calls for prompt remedy is the farming of taxes. Already the Hatti-Chérif of 1839, in speaking of this system, has expressed itself in the following terms:

"A deplorable practice still subsists, though its consequences can not fail to be disastrous; it is that of the venal concessions known under the name of Iltizan. By this system the civil and financial administration of a district is handed over to the will of an individual, that is to say, sometimes to the iron hand of the most violent and avaricious passions."

And the Hatti-Houmayoum of 1856 contains the following:—

"The promptest and most energetic measures will be taken into consideration for correcting the abuses in the collection of the taxes, especially of the tithes. The system of direct collection will be substituted by degrees, and as speedily as possible, for the practice of farming in all the branches of the State revenue."

In spite of these formal declarations, the system of farming is still in force to its fullest extent.

The Sublime Porte now foreshadows reforms in this direction, but without stating anything definitely. The Firman of December 12th again styles as abnormal the system for the collection of taxes actually in force. It orders the search for a mode of unification of taxes. It further precribes measures to be taken "to prevent arbitrary proceedings in the collection of the tithe by the intervention of farmers," but it does not abolish farming.

If it is desired, then, to deprive the insurrection of an essential and perpetual source of nourishment, one of the points which must be demanded by the Porte is that she should clearly and categorically declare that the system of farming the taxes is suppressed, not only in law but in practice, for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and this measure must be immediately applied.

One of the causes which still further materially aggravate the burden, already so heavy, of the taxes in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, is that the inhabitants believe themselves to be overburdened financially for the benefit of the capital. They entertain the belief that the proceeds of the taxes are not devoted to meeting the necessities of the province, but that the total of the sum received is immediately sent to Constantinople for the use of the Central Government.

It would then be necessary to alleviate morally the weight of the burdens the province has to support, by securing that, without any encroachment on that which the expenses of the Empire require, a portion of the product of the taxes paid by the province may be reserved for purposes beneficial to its peculiar interests.

With this view, the Porte should declare that the revenue from indirect taxation should, as heretofore, be applied to the necessities of the Empire in general, but that the funds arising from direct taxation should remain in the province, and be exclusively applied in its interests to enlarge its resources and augment its prosperity.

The execution of this regulation should be placed under the control of the Elective Council, of which mention will be made in the course of this paper.

The unhappy condition of the Bosnia and Herzegovinan Christians is caused in great measure by the nature of the relations subsisting between the rural population and the land owners. Agrarian difficulties have always had a peculiarly bitter character in the countries where the landlord class differs, either in religion or nationality, from the bulk of the labourers. There are but too many examples of the furious conflicts which have resulted from such a situation.

In the provinces we are dealing with nearly the whole of the properties not belonging

to the State or to the Mosques, are in the hands of Mussulmans, whilst the agricultural class is composed of Christians of both creeds. The agricultural question is then complicated by religious antagonism.

After the suppression of the first insurrection of the Bosnian Cegs in 1851, slavery was abolished; but, as often happens in such cases, this measure, instead of alleviating the condition of the peasants, has only aggravated it. They are no longer treated with the same consideration as before. Now-a-days there are only two antagonistic interests, and two religions face to face. From the moment when the disappearance of the feudal system effected the transformation of the former serfs into farmers (or "métayers"), the outrageous practices of the landlords provoked numerous general or partial outbreaks. A movement of this kind having broken out in 1858 in the north of Bosnia, the Porte was prevailed upon to take into its consideration the disputes which had occasioned it. Delegates from both sides were summoned to Constantinople, and, after long discussions, in which the officious intercession of the Internuncio of His Majesty the Emperor and King had a share, a Firman was obtained from the Sultan, the provisions of which appeared at that time sufficient to conciliate successfully enough the interests of the agricultural proprietors. However, this Firman has never been carried into execution.

It would not be out of place to examine, if some of the provisions of this document could not, even at the present time, serve as the basis for an equitable arrangement suitable for the amelioration of the condition of the rural population, or if it would be practicable to call upon the public treasury to facilitate the execution of the measures to be taken with this object, in imitation of what occurred twenty years ago in Bulgaria, where the landlords' dues have been brought up by means of the issue of public obligations (?) called "sekims." We feel that the task is difficult, and that its accomplishment cannot be the work of a day; but we believe that it is important to labour at it, so as to ameliorate the lot of the rural population in Bosnia and the Herzegovine, and to close thus one of the open wounds in the social condition of these Provinces. It would not seem impossible to us to find some combination which should gradually permit the peasants to acquire, on easy terms, portions of the waste lands which the State put up to sell. Whilst continuing, if they wished, to cultivate as farmers the estates of their Mussulman compatriots, they would, by degrees, attain to the possession themselves of a little real property, which would assure them a certain independence, and would provide for their imposts.

If one considers the distrust with which the promises of the Sublime Porte are received by the Christians, it is impossible to disguise from oneself that the published reforms can only inspire the necessary confidence by the creation at the same time of some institution capable of offering a certain guarantee that these reforms will be executed in earnest. To content oneself with confiding their execution to the discretion of the Provincial Governments would not be sufficient to remove the distrust of which I am speaking. It would be expedient then to nominate a Commission of the notables of the country, composed half of Mussulmans and half of Christians, and elected by the inhabitants of the Province in accordance with a scheme to be settled by the Sublime Porte.

I have now set forth the measures, the application of which to the revolted Provinces must be obtained to enable one to entertain a well-grounded hope of pacification.

These measures are as follows:—

Religious liberty, full and entire;

Abolition of the farming of taxes;

A law to guarantee that the product of the direct taxation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be employed for the immediate interests of the Province, under the control of bodies constituted in the sense of the Firman of December 12;

The institution of a Special Commission, composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and Christians, to superintend the execution of the reforms proposed by the Powers, as well as of those proclaimed in the Iradé of October 2 and Firman of December 12;

Lastly, the amelioration of the condition of the rural populations.

The first four points could and should be immediately carried out by the Sublime Porte; the fifth by degrees, as soon as possible.

If, independently of these concessions, which appear to us the most essential, Bosnia and Herzegovina obtain in addition the following reforms indicated in the recent Firman, a Provincial Council and tribunals freely elected by the inhabitants, irremovability of judges, secular justice, individual liberty, security against ill-treatment, the reorganization of the police, whose conduct has excited so many complaints, the abandonment of the abuses to which the levies for public works give rise, an equitable reduction in the tax for

exemption from military service, security for proprietary rights,—if all these reforms, the communication of which we claim from the Porte, in order to take formal note thereof, are applied in the insurgent Provinces, which, to judge by the text of the Firman, would not appear as yet to be in a position to benefit by them, one may hope to see peace restored in these desolated districts.

To resume. The indefinite promises of the Iradé of October 2 and Firman of December 12, can only excite aspirations without satisfying them. On the other hand it is clear that the Turkish arms have not succeeded in putting down the insurrection. Winter has suspended action, spring will see it revive. The conviction is general among the Christians that, spring once come, fresh elements will strengthen the proceedings, that Bulgaria, the Cretans, &c., will come to swell the movement. Be this as it may, it is to be foreseen that the Governments of Servia and Montenegro, who already, up to this time, have had great difficulty in holding aloof from the movement, will be powerless to resist the current, and for the future, under the influence of events and of public opinion in their countries, they appear to have accustomed themselves to the idea of taking part in the struggle on the melting of the snows.

In this situation the task of the Powers, who in the interest of the general peace desire to stave off ulterior complications, becomes very difficult. Austria-Hungary and the two other Imperial Courts, after a confidential exchange of ideas, are all agreed that, were one merely to await the effect of the principles enunciated by the last Firman—principles which, moreover, according to the intentions of the Porte, do not appear to be intended to be immediately applied to the revolted countries, the only result would be to see the conflict widely extended at the termination of the winter. The three Cabinets then think that the only chance to avoid fresh complications is in a manifestation emanating from the Powers and making clear their firm resolution to arrest the movement which menaces to involve the East.

Now this end cannot be attained by the simple method of an injunction addressed to the Governments of the Principalities and to the Christian populations subjects of the Sultan. To give this action, very difficult in itself, a chance of success, it is absolutely necessary that the Powers should be in a position to appeal to Acts, clear, indisputable, practicable, and specially suited for the improvement of the situation of Herzegovina and Bosnia, in one word that their action may be grounded on facts and not on programmes. It is only by these means that the Cabinets will find themselves in a position to turn to a proper account their pacific counsels.

There is another difficulty—and it is the greatest—which must, at all hazards, be overcome if one hopes to be able to reckon on any sort of a favourable result. This difficulty is the deeply-rooted distrust that every promise of the Porte's encounters at the hands of the Christians. One of the principal causes of this mistrust is discoverable in the fact that more than one measure announced in the Sultan's latest rescripts has already been announced in former Hatti-Chérifs, without causing any appreciable amelioration of the lot of the Christians.

The Cabinets think it, therefore, absolutely necessary to obtain from the Sultan's Government, by means of an official Commission, the confirmation of his intentions with regard to the whole Empire, set forth in the Iradé of October 2 and Firman of December 12, and his notification to the Powers of his acceptance of the points specified above the special object of which is the pacification of the revolted Provinces.

Undoubtedly the Christians would not, by this method, obtain the form of guarantee they appear to demand at this moment, but they would find a relative security in the very fact that the reforms accorded would be recognized as indispensable by the Powers, and that the Porte would have pledged itself to Europe to carry them into execution.

Such is the firm conviction resulting from a preliminary exchange of ideas between the Cabinets of Austria, Hungary, Russia, and Germany.

Your Excellency is directed to bring this view of the case to the knowledge of the Court of St. James, and to obtain its concurrence in the work of peace, the success of which our efforts tend to assure.

If, as I hope, the views of the English Government accord with our own, we should propose, out of consideration for the dignity and independence of the Porte, not to address our advice to the latter in the form of a collective note, but to confine ourselves to inviting our Representatives at Constantinople to act conjointly and in an identic manner towards the Sultan's Government in the sense of what we have set forth.

You will be so good, M. le Comte, as to read the present despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to leave him a copy of it, and I should be glad to know as soon as possible the impression it has made on his Excellency.

Receive, &c.

No. 56.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 3, 1876.

I TRANSMIT for your Excellency's information the accompanying copy of a communication which I have to-day received from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at this Court, containing the project of reforms proposed to be submitted by his Government to the Porte.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 57.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.†

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 4, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch addressed by Count Andrassy to Count Beust,* embodying proposals for Turkish Reform. This despatch was communicated to me yesterday by Count Beust.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 58.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 6.)

(Extract.) *Paris, January* 5, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes spoke to me yesterday of the despatch from Count Andrassy on the Herzegovina insurrection, dated the 30th of last month, which had been communicated to him by the Austrian Embassy here.

The Duke told me that he had no hesitation in saying in general terms that, in his opinion, the proposals entertained in the despatch should be agreed to by the Powers parties to the Treaty of Paris, and should be recommended by them to the acceptance of the Porte.

His Excellency proceeded to observe that, with regard to these proposals, there were three points to be specially regarded; first, their efficacy towards putting an end to the insurrection; second, the nature of the reforms pressed upon the Porte; and thirdly, the mode in which the Porte should be addressed on the subject.

To speak first of the efficacy, the Duke would (he said) not hesitate to express the conviction that it would prove much greater than might be thought at first sight. The insurrection was, in fact, kept afloat mainly by the current of opinion in its favour, which existed in Europe generally, but more particularly in Russia and in the Slavonic Provinces of the Austrian Empire. Now, if the insurgents should refuse to accept an arrangement recommended to them by all Europe, and especially by Russia and Austria, the Governments of those two countries could have little difficulty in directing the public opinion of their own subjects into another channel.

As to the particular reforms proposed, they appeared to the Duke to afford no ground for reasonable objection on the part of the Porte. Religious liberty, the abolition of the system of farming out the taxes, the amelioration of the condition of the rural population, were reforms which had been promised over and over again by the Porte.

There was, however, one point which made the Duke hesitate a little as to the course to be taken by the Powers. This was the proposed appropriation of the produce of the direct taxes exclusively to local purposes in the Herzegovina and in Bosnia. This concession, if accorded to those two Provinces, could hardly be withheld from the rest of the Empire. Might not this effect so great a diminution of the resources of the Central Government as to impair its means of fulfilling its engagements to its creditors? The Duke had been somewhat reassured by being told that the tax on sheep, and other

* No. 55.

† Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. Buchanan, Lord A. Loftus, Sir H. Elliot, Lord Lyons, and Sir A. Paget.

branches of revenue more particularly assigned as securities for the loans, were regarded as indirect, not direct, taxes. Still he thought that this matter was one which required the special attention of Governments whose subjects were holders of Turkish stock.

A demand that the acceptance of Count Andrassy's proposals by the Porte should be officially announced to the Powers, and, moreover that the Iradé of the 2nd October, and the Firman of the 12th of December, should be officially communicated to them, would, in the Duc Decazes' opinion, be perfectly reasonable. Such a step on the part of the Porte would be no novelty. The Sultan had, on previous occasions, solemnly announced to the Powers the reforms which he had accorded to his subjects, and the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856 had been appended to the Treaty of Paris.

With regard to the mode in which the Porte was to be addressed, the Duc Decazes thought that the Austrian despatch showed careful consideration for the independence and dignity of the Porte, and for the positions of the several guaranteeing Powers. The course which would be actually taken would (he seemed to think) be the following:—The proposals would, he supposed, be presented to the Porte in writing by the Austrian Ambassador, and would then be supported verbally by the Representatives of the other Powers.

No. 59.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 10.)

(Extract.) *Rome, January* 5, 1876.

WHEN I called upon Chevalier Visconti Venosta yesterday morning his Excellency informed me that he had received the Austrian Note relative to the affairs of Herzegovina, and that he was then expecting the visit of Count Wimpffen, who was to call upon him by appointment. My interview with his Excellency was therefore necessarily somewhat hurried.

On my asking M. Visconti Venosta his opinion of the Austrian programme, and whether he would be prepared to join in the steps proposed to be taken at Constantinople, his Excellency replied that before giving an official answer he must, of course, confer with the President of the Council, but as far as his own impression went he must say, speaking in the first place of the proposed reforms, that he saw nothing in them which the Christian population had not fairly a right to claim, and which the Porte had not, with the exception perhaps of the redemption of the rent charge on land, already manifested an intention to accede to.

No. 60.

*Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received January* 27.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, January* 13, 1876.

UNLESS the Austrian proposal proves altogether objectionable, the Porte is desirous that Her Majesty's Government should join in the communication.

Raschid Pasha spoke strongly in this sense to me this afternoon.

No. 61.

Règlement respecting the Functions of the Executive Council.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, January* 13.)

(Traduction.)

UN Conseil Exécutif permanent a été institué à la Sublime Porte en vue de mettre entièrement et graduellement à exécution, dans toutes les provinces de l'Empire, les dispositions du Firman Impérial, récemment promulgué, au sujet des réformes générales.

Ce Conseil, placé sous la présidence de son Altesse le Grand Vézir, est composé d'un nombre suffisant de membres permanents pris parmi les hauts dignitaires et autres

* The substance of this despatch was telegraphed.

fonctionnaires de l'Etat, et d'un Secrétaire Général. Les Ministres en activité feront de droit partie de ce Conseil.

Les rapports des Ministères et des vilayets relatifs à l'exécution des dispositions du Firman Impérial seront référés au dit Conseil, qui est chargé de faire rédiger et transmettre sans retard tant les réponses aux questions qui pourraient être posées dans les dits rapports que les ordres Viziriels qu'il sera jugé nécessaire d'adresser pour les instructions et les explications à donner sur l'exécution des dispositions du Firman Impérial.

Les membres permanents du Conseil Exécutif se réuniront tous les jours et veilleront à la prompte et entière exécution de leur mandat. Les délibérations sur les affaires urgentes auront lieu sous la présidence de son Altesse le Grand Vézir et en présence de tous les membres conseillers ordinaires et extraordinaires.

Les membres permanents sont chargés de surveiller l'exécution des réformes dans les provinces; toutefois, vu la nécessité absolue d'exercer une surveillance incessante et de faire des investigations continuelles, un Comité de contrôle composé de personnes compétentes a été attaché a ce Conseil pour le fonctionnement permanent du service en question dans les provinces.

Le Conseil Exécutif étant ainsi chargé de veiller à l'exécution et au contrôle des mesures précitées, de leur côte, les délégues désignés par la confiance des populations sont autorisés à porter à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte toutes les plaintes légitimes ainsi que tous les actes qui viendraient à se commettre contrairement à la justice et aux ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Le Conseil Exécutif, tout en veillant à l'exécution de ces réformes, est autorisé à étudier et à soumettre à la Sublime Porte d'autres projets de réformes.

Les attributions du Conseil Exécutif définies par le présent règlement recevront ultérieurement les développements que l'expérience aura rendus nécessaires pour activer l'effet des réformes décrétées.

(Translation.)

A PERMANENT Executive Council has been established at the Sublime Porte with a view to gradually and completely carrying out, in all the provinces of the Empire, the dispositions of the recently-promulgated Imperial Firman on the subject of general reforms.

This Council, placed under the presidency of His Highness the Grand Vizier, is composed of a sufficient number of permanent members, chosen from the high dignitaries and other functionaries of the State, and of a Secretary-General. Ministers in office will belong *de jure* to this Council.

The reports of the several Departments of State and of the vilayets, having reference to the execution of the dispositions of the Imperial Firman, will be referred to the said Council, upon whom it will moreover be incumbent to draw up and forward without delay both the answers to the questions which may be propounded in the said Reports, as well as the Vizirial orders which it may be judged necessary to issue as instructions and explanations on the subject of the dispositions of the Imperial Firman.

The permanent members of the Executive Council will meet every day, and will superintend the prompt and complete execution of their Commission. Deliberations upon matters of pressing importance will take place under the presidency of His Highness the Grand Vizier, and in the presence of all the Councillors, both ordinary and extraordinary.

The permanent members are charged with the superintendence of the execution of the reforms in the Provinces; but moreover, in view of the absolute necessity of exercising an increasing superintendence, and of making continual investigations, a Committee of Control, composed of competent persons, has been attached to this Council, to look to the permanent carrying out in the provinces of the reforms in question.

The Executive Council being thus charged with the execution and control of the aforesaid measures, the delegates selected by the choice of the populations are, on their side, authorized to bring to the knowledge of the Sublime Porte all legitimate complaints, as well as all acts which may be committed contrary to justice and to the orders of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

The Executive Council, while superintending the execution of these reforms, is authorized to work out and submit to the Sublime Porte further projects of reforms.

The attributions of the Executive Council as laid down in these regulations, will

hereafter be supplemented in such manner as experience may prove necessary, with a view to fostering the effect of the reforms which have been decreed.

No. 62.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 13, 1876.

I HAVE within the last two days had the honour of interviews with the French, German, and Russian Ambassadors respectively. They all concurred in expressing the strong desire of their Governments that England should not hold aloof from the representation which all the other European Powers were about to address to the Porte in favour of the acceptance of Count Andrassy's note. They urged upon me the extreme danger which would arise from a refusal on the part of the Porte to entertain their plan of pacification, the moderation of the measures proposed, and the fact that, in supporting the note, Her Majesty's Government would not in the slightest degree pledge themselves to ulterior steps, should such be taken or contemplated by any of the other Powers.

I do not think it necessary to reproduce at length the arguments employed by them.

I stated in reply that, considering the importance of the question, it was absolutely necessary that the Cabinet should be consulted upon it, and that it was, therefore, out of my power to give any answer until next week.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 63.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 18, 1876.

COUNT BEUST called upon me at this Office on the 14th instant, and informed me that he had received communications from his Government in regard to Count Andrassy's note to the following effect:—

That, if the Porte accepted the note, it would be advantageous, on the one hand, to the Porte, inasmuch as the Powers engaged themselves not to make fresh demands, and to give their support to the Turkish Government, in the event of its acceptance; on the other hand, it would be advantageous to the Powers, inasmuch as they would be in possession of formal engagements, by the aid of which they might be enabled to restrain Montenegro, and to induce the insurgents to lay down their arms.

That, according to a telegram received from Count Zichy, Raschid Pasha had assured him that the Porte had been misunderstood, and that it was far from the intention of the Porte, nor was it their desire, to prescribe conditions to the Powers as to the form in which the note should be presented. Count Zichy added that General Ignatiew had received a telegram, giving him instructions similar to his own.

That not only was it intended by Austria to act in concert with the Treaty Powers, but that it was clearly expressed in the note, that the unanimous voice of the Powers, and concessions on the part of the Porte, were relied on as means to prevent the continuance of the insurrection, and that if an armed intervention had been contemplated, the Austrian Government would have spared themselves the steps taken on the 30th December.

Count Beust said that he was therefore authorized by his Government categorically to declare that the note contained nothing which could induce the belief that an armed intervention was intended, and that the Austro-Hungarian Government have no desire to constitute themselves guardians of the peace beyond their own frontiers.

That as far as any reservations which other Powers might think proper were concerned, it might be right in theory to confine recommendations for reforms to principles, but that in practice the definite proposals relating to taxes and to agrarian laws were not administrative details, but concessions most necessary to the inhabitants of the insurgent provinces.

Count Beust went on to say that it was precisely to avoid a refusal on the part of

the Porte to accept the note that the acquiescence of England was asked, because in face of the unanimity of the Powers such an event was not probable. That the task undertaken by his Government consisted in doing their utmost to insure a pacification; and they considered their proposals to be such as would effect that object, and as being in no way compromising if advantage should not be taken of them.

That if the insurgents did not submit then the Porte would be left to subdue them by force of arms, and that they would be prevented from obtaining the support derived by them from exterior aid.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 64.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 18.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, January* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Herzegovina, hitherto included in the Vilayet of Bosnia, has now been made a separate Vilayet, and his Excellency, Ali Pasha, formerly Ambassador at Paris, has been appointed to the post of Governor.

Ibrahim Bey, Mutessarif of the central Sandjak of Serajevo, and Vice-Governor of the Province, has been raised to the rank of Vizier, and named Civil Governor of Bosnia.

The Mushir Ahmet Mouktar Pasha has been intrusted with the supreme military command in both Vilayets. His Excellency Raouf Pasha has been named Governor-General of the Island of Candia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 65.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received Jauuary* 18.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, January* 7, 1876.

WITH regard to administrative reforms in this Province, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Sclave scribes have just been appointed to the Medjliss "Temyiz-i-houkouk," or Court of Appeal, to the Medjliss "Divan-i-temyiz," or Court of First Instance, and to the "Tidjaret Medjlissy," or Tribunal of Commerce: to the first a Mussulman, and to the two latter Christians.

The official newspaper, the "Bosna," of the 2nd instant has announced that the Medjlisses throughout the Province are to be reconstituted in the month of March next in the manner ordained by the law of Vilayets; and further that the Local Government is at present occupied in selecting a certain number of person of known antecedents to act as Tahsildars or tax-gatherers.

It also states that the peasants' horses will not in future be forcibly taken for Government service, but that when the authorities require baggage animals they will hire them at the ordinary rate as any merchant would; and also that for every horse that dies on the road the owner will be paid an indemnity of five hundred piastres.

These are the first attempts that have been made to carry out any of the various reforms promised by Server Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 66.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 18, 1876.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 30, 1875.

I HAVE observed that in the Reform Firman there was an objectionable provision under which the Naibs, or expounders of the Law in the Religious Tribunals,

were to be the Presidents of the Civil Courts of Appeal, and I conveyed my opinion upon that point to the Grand Vizier.

It was stated in reply that a large share in the jurisdiction having been withdrawn from the Mussulman Judges, it was thought essential to retain one as President of the Court of Appeal.

The enclosed instruction to them will diminish the objection to which the arrangement seems open.

The Courts when sitting on appeal from the Sheri, or inferior Religious Courts, will decide them according to the Sheri or Religious law.

On the other hand, when the appeal is from a Civil or Correctional Court, the Presidents are enjoined strictly to follow the prescriptions of the law, and regulations of the Nizam.

The Presidents and all the members of the Court are to be held responsible for any detention of an accused person without judgment, and for any sentence more severe than that which is sanctioned by the law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Instructions to Presidents of New Courts of Appeal in Turkey.

Article 1. Conformément aux dispositions du Firman Impérial, récemment promulgué, les Naïbs (Juges) des Chefs-lieux des Vilayets qui occupaient naguère le poste de Présidents du Medjlissi Temyse seront appelés à la présidence des Cours d'Appel (Divani Temyse) des Vilayets.

Art. 2. Simultanément avec l'examen, par rapport au Chéri, des sentences rendues par les Tribunaux du Chéri des Sanjaks et des Cazas, les Naïbs des Chefs-lieux des Vilayets exerceront également, par autorisation de son Altesse le Cheik-ul-Islam, les fonctions déjà dévolues à eux par le Chéri.

Art. 3. Les Cours d'Appel auront à connaître des affaires civiles et correctionnelles légalement jugées. Leurs attributions sont définies par la loi. Comme ces Tribunaux sont également composés de membres élus par la population, les Naïbs auront à présider ces Cours en se conformant exclusivement à la loi et aux règlements du Nizam sans préjudice des fonctions de Chéri qu'ils exerceront à part.

Art. 4. Les Cours d'Appel auront à examiner d'après la Loi et les Règlements y relatifs les procès civils et correctionnels, qui, après avoir été instruits et jugés par les Tribunaux Nizamié des Sandjaks et des Cazas, leur auront été déférés pour être, à la demande des intéressés, jugés d'après le Nizam en seconde instance.

L'instruction et la délibération auront lieu à la majorité ou à l'unanimité des voix des membres élus de ces Cours.

Art. 5. Il importe au plus haut point d'apporter un soin scrupuleux et la plus grande impartialité dans l'instruction des affaires correctionelles qui incombent aux Cours d'Appel, et notamment dans l'application des dispositions de la Loi du Nizam aux accusations constatées.

La détention d'un prévenu sans jugement, ou le prononcé d'une sentence qui le condamnerait à une peine plus forte que celle qu'il pourrait encourir d'après la loi, entraînera la responsabilité légale des Présidents et des membres de ces Cours.

Les instructions relatives aux Medjlissi Temyse des Sandjaks seront préparées à part.

(Translation.)

Article 1. IN conformity with the dispositions of the Imperial Firman recently promulgated, the Naïbs (Judges) of the chief towns of the vilayets, who formerly occupied the post of Presidents of the Medjlissi Temyse, will be called to the presidency of the Courts of Appeal (Divani Temyse) of the vilayets.

Art. 2. Simultaneously with the examination, as regards the Chéri, of the sentences pronounced by the Chéri Tribunals of the Sandjaks and the Cazas, the Naïbs will also, by authorization of his Highness the Cheik-ul-Islam, discharge the duties already intrusted to them by the Chéri.

Art. 3. The Courts of Appeal will take cognizance of civil matters and misdemeanours, where a sentence has been pronounced. Their attributions are defined by

aw. As these Tribunals are also composed of members chosen by the people, the Naïbs in presiding at these Courts will exclusively conform themselves to the law and regulations of the Nizam, without prejudice to the functions of the Chéri, which they will exercise separately.

Art. 4. The Courts of Appeal will examine according to the law and regulations relating thereto those civil suits and misdemeanours which, after having been inquired into and sentence pronounced by the Nizamié Tribunals of the Sandjaks and the Cazas, shall be referred to them at the request of the parties interested, in order that they may be decided according to the Nizam "en seconde instance."

Either a majority or a unanimous vote of the members of the Courts shall be the rule pertaining during the examinations and at the decisions of the Courts.

Art. 5. It is of the very greatest importance that the most scrupulous care and the greatest impartiality should be brought to bear in the investigation of the cases of misdemeanour, which will devolve on the Courts of Appeal, and especially in the application of the dispositions of the law of the Nizam to charges which have been proved.

The detention of an accused person without trial, or the pronouncing of a sentence severer than that which, according to the law, he has incurred, will involve the legal responsibility of the Presidents and members of these Courts.

Instructions relative to the Medjlissi Temyse will be drawn up separately.

No. 67.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 18, 1876.)

My Lord, *Pera, December* 30, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the instructions to the Executive Council, charged with giving effect to the Reform Firman.

The duties of the Council are not very clearly laid down; but the instructions allowed it great latitude; and I learn from one of the Christian Members, that at the sittings which have already been held, the Grand Vizier has encouraged the most liberal interpretation of the Firman.

Your Lordship will see, with satisfaction, that the populations of the Provinces are authorized to send Delegates to make known to the Porte grievances of which they have to complain, and all acts not in harmony with the orders which have been issued.

A Commission of Supervision attached to the Council, is to watch over the execution of the Firman in the Provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Règlement respecting the Functions of the Executive Council.

[See No. 61.]

No. 68.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 18, 1876.)

(Extract.) *Pera, December* 30, 1875.

BOSNIA and the Herzegovina have been separated into two distinct vilayets, Raouf Pasha being appointed Governor-General of the latter.

He will also, I am told, exercise the functions of Imperial Commissioner, in the place of Server Pasha.

No. 69.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 20, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve your having drawn the attention of the Grand Vizier to the objectionable provision under which the Naibs are proposed to be elected Presidents of the Civil Courts of Appeal in Turkey, as reported in the despatch of the 30th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 70.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 24, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me on the 22nd instant, and made a communication to the following effect:—

The three Powers before making their proposed representation at Constantinople, had been anxious to know the view which the British Government would take of it. The Austrian Government had now learned from him by telegraph that England was prepared to give that representation a general support. They had been glad to hear of this decision, which they considered themselves entitled to regard as formal and definitive, and they were prepared to make their representation without further delay. Before doing so, however, they wished to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government had any objection to this course, or wished them to await a supplementary declaration on the part of Great Britain.

I said in reply, that I thought it would be better that before the Austrian communication was formally made to the Porte, Sir H. Elliot should be in a position to give it such support as his instructions should authorize; these instructions could not be sent in detail by telegraph, and until they arrived he would naturally feel himself unable to speak otherwise than in very general and guarded language. I added that within the next three or four days, I hoped to be able to place in Count Beust's hands a despatch giving in full the views of Her Majesty's Government. Some conversation followed, in the course of which Count Beust took occasion to observe that the communication intended to be addressed to the Porte was not regarded by his Government in the light of mere good advice. They wanted a pledge that the reforms which they proposed should be carried into execution, failing which they would not undertake to use their influence with the Christian population to advise them to lay down their arms.

I stated in answer that I clearly understood this to be the Austrian point of view. So far as Her Majesty's Government were concerned, we were not prepared to do more than offer such friendly advice as the circumstances seemed to require, but this difference between the relative positions of the two countries need not prevent us from supporting recommendations which we believed, in the main, to be founded on sound principles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 71.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 24th instant the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at this Court made the following statement to me on behalf of his Government.

His Excellency reminded me that at our last meeting he had expressly said that the object of the Austro-Hungarian *démarche vis-à-vis* of the Porte was not to give friendly counsel only, but to obtain a definite promise that the reforms the Austrian Govern-

ment advocated should be really carried into effect. That the Sublime Porte should enter into an explicit engagement towards the guaranteeing Powers to carry out the reforms in question and give a written promise to that effect, without which the Cabinets could not succeed in pacifying the disturbed districts.

His Excellency added that I doubtless remembered that the Russian Ambassador had expressed to me the intention of his Government to elicit a similar written engagement from the Porte.

Count Beust stated that he had been informed by telegraph on the 24th instant that France and Italy had unreservedly acceded to this view, and that his Excellency could hardly lay too much stress on the disappointment which his Government would experience if the British Government disagreed on this point.

He further informed me that the Porte itself had requested his Government not to delay any longer the official commission of its propositions.

In conclusion Count Beust expressed the hope that under these circumstances he would be put in possession the next day of the note which I had told him on Saturday last he might expect in two or three days, as there could be no doubt that the postponement of the pacifying influences of the Powers even by single days might in the present state of affairs be fraught with incalculable danger.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 72.

The Earl of Derby to Count Beust.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, January 25, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the despatch from Count Andrassy, dated the 30th December, of which I had the honour of receiving a copy from your Excellency on the 3rd instant.

After a brief review of the action of the Powers since the insurrection broke out in Herzegovina and Bosnia, Count Andrassy proceeds to state the measures which the Austrian Government, after communication with the Governments of Germany and Russia, consider as proper to be recommended for the pacification of the insurgent districts.

These measures consist in the practical enforcement in these districts of the provisions for the benefit of the Christian population, contained in the Hatti-Scheriff of Gulhané of 1839, the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856, and the Iradé and Firman of the 2nd October and 12th of December last, together with administrative reforms in the collection and application of the taxes, and in the execution of the Land Law of 1858.

Count Andrassy sums up these points as follows:—

Full and entire religious liberty.

Abolition of the system of farming the taxes.

A law which should guarantee that the produce of the direct taxes in Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be employed in the interest of these provinces, under the control of bodies constituted in the sense of the Firman of the 12th December.

The institution of a Special Commission, composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and Christians, to control the execution of the reforms proposed by the Powers as well as those proclaimed in the Iradé of the 2nd of October and Firman of the 12th of December; and, finally, the improvement of the position of the rural population.

Of these points the first four could and should, Count Andrassy states, be brought into immediate execution by the Porte; the fifth gradually as soon as is practicable.

The Austro-Hungarian Government consider that if Bosnia and Herzegovina obtain these concessions and other reforms indicated in the recent Firman, but which, from the text of the Firman, would appear not to be intended to be at present applied in the insurgent districts, hopes may be entertained of the restoration of peace.

Count Andrassy adds that there is a general conviction among the Christians that in the spring the insurrection will spread to Bulgaria, Crete, &c., and that at all events it is to be foreseen that the Governments of Servia and Montenegro may be unable to resist the force of public opinion in their countries and be led into joining the movement as soon as the winter breaks up.

The three Cabinets accordingly consider that the only chance of avoiding new complications is to be found "dans une manifestation émanant des Puissances et constatant leur ferme résolution d'arrêter le mouvement qui menace d'entraîner l'Orient.

"Or, ce but," Count Andrassy continues, "ne saurait être atteint par le seul moyen d'une injonction à l'adresse des Gouvernements Princiers et des populations Chrétiennes sujettes du Sultan. . . . Aussi les. Cabinets croient-ils absolument nécessaire d'obtenir que le Gouvernement du Sultan confirme, au moyen d'une Commission officielle, ses intentions consignées par rapport à l'ensemble de l'Empire dans l'Iradé du 2 Octobre et dans le Firman du 12 Décembre, et qu'il notifie en même temps aux Puissances son acceptation des points ci-dessus mentionnés, qui ont pour objet spécial la pacification des provinces insurgées."

Count Andrassy concludes by saying that it is proposed, out of regard to the independence and dignity of the Porte, not to address these counsels to it in a collective note, but that the Governments should confine themselves to instructing their Representatives at Constantinople to act together and in an identic manner towards the Sultan's Government in the sense of his despatch.

I have thus recapitulated the proposals in Count Andrassy's communication in order the better to indicate the view which Her Majesty's Government take of them.

In the first place I have to request your Excellency to express to the Government of Austria-Hungary the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government at finding themselves in continued and friendly communication with the Cabinet of Vienna on this question. They do not believe that the true interests of the two countries can in such a matter be otherwise than identical.

Her Majesty's Government have never omitted, when opportunity presented itself, to urge upon the Porte the most liberal measures for the improvement of the Christian population as an essential condition to the welfare of the Ottoman Empire.

They were parties, as your Excellency is aware, to the Protocol signed at Vienna on the 1st of February, 1856, providing that the immunities of the Rayah subjects of the Porte shall be confirmed without prejudice to the independence and dignity of the Sultan's Crown, and the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain afterwards joined at the Congress of Paris with those of the other Powers in considering it indispensable that the issue of the Hatti-Humayoun should be recorded in the final Act of the Congress.

The Government of Austria-Hungary do not, if I rightly understand, consider that the provisions of that Firman, taken in connection with the Hatti-Scheriff of Gulhané of 1839, are insufficient for securing religious liberty to the Christian population of the Empire, but rather that those provisions, and especially such as relate to the building of churches and schools, have never been satisfactorily brought into execution within the districts to which Count Andrassy's despatch more particularly refers.

The Hatti-Humayoun contains the following clause on this subject:—

"In the towns, small boroughs, and villages, where the whole population is of the same religion, no obstacle shall be offered to the repair, according to their original plan, of buildings set apart for religious worship, for schools, for hospitals, and for cemeteries.

"The plans of these different buildings, in case of their new erection, must, after having been approved by the Patriarchs or Heads of Communities, be submitted to my Sublime Porte, which will approve of them by my Imperial Order, or make known its observations upon them within a certain time.

"Each sect, in localities where there are no other religious denominations, shall be free from every species of restraint as regard the public exercise of its religion.

"In the towns, small boroughs, and villages, where different sects are mingled together, each community inhabiting a distinct quarter shall, by conforming to the above-mentioned ordinances, have equal power to repair and improve its churches, its hospitals, its schools, and its cemeteries. When there is question of the erection of new buildings, the necessary authority must be asked for through the medium of the Patriarchs and Heads of Communities from my Sublime Porte, which will pronounce a sovereign decision according that authority, except in the case of administrative obstacles. The intervention of the administrative authority in all measures of this nature will be entirely gratuitous. My Sublime Porte will take

energetic measures to ensure to each sect, whatever be the number of its adherents entire freedom in the exercise of its religion."

On the 15th of May, 1867, the Porte addressed a circular to its Representatives at the Courts of the Treaty Powers, inclosing a Memorandum explaining the further administrative measures which it was intended to carry out in execution of the Hatti-Humayoun. This Memorandum, of which your Excellency's Government is no doubt in possession of a copy, touched upon the different provisions of the Hatti-Humayoun, and, remarking upon the manner in which effect had been given to them, stated that no impediment had ever been placed in the way of the construction of new churches or the repair of old ones. "So far from placing difficulties in the way, the Sovereign and the Government often came to the aid of these religious foundations, either by gratuitous concessions of land or by pecuniary grants."

By the Criminal Code of the Empire, Article 132: "Quiconque aura troublé l'exercice du culte et des cérémonies religieuses que les différentes classes de sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale sont autorisés à exercer, ou qui les aura entravés par des voies de fait ou des menaces, sera, selon le degré de gravité du cas, puni d'une semaine à trois mois d'emprisonnement."

Furthermore, in the Firman of the 12th December last, the Sultan has declared, "Toutes les classes de nos sujets qui vivent à l'ombre de notre protection Impériale sont à nos yeux et dans nos sentiments de justice sur le pied d'une complète égalité. C'est pourquoi nous confirmons les pouvoirs dont sont revêtus les patriarches et les autres chefs spirituels pour les affaires de leurs communautés respectives, ainsi que pour le libre exercice de leurs cultes, conformément aux priviléges et immunités existant des dites communautés. Toutes les affaires se rattachant tant à l'autorité des dits chefs spirituels qu'au besoin et aux actes de leurs conseils spéciaux, dans les limites des droits et autorisations qui leur ont été octroyés, continueront à être l'objet de toute notre protection, et l'on accordera toutes les facilités pour la fondation et la construction de leurs églises, de leurs écoles, et de leurs autres édifices nationaux."

So far, therefore, as the intention of the Porte can be proclaimed, it appears to Her Majesty's Government that the principle of religious liberty throughout the Ottoman Empire has been acknowledged to the fullest extent, and Her Majesty's Government see no reason why the Porte should scruple to accept the counsel of friendly Powers for its practical application.

In like manner the acceptance of Christian evidence and the establishment of mixed tribunals with publicity of trial have been provided for in the Hatti-Humayoun, and in the Law of 1867 for the organization of the Vilayets, which also established throughout the Empire a system of elective Councils, containing a proportion of Christian members; and the recent Firman, too, decrees in the most formal manner that "tous nos sujets sont autorisés à élire eux-mêmes les juges et les membres Musulmans et non-Musulmans, tant des dits Tribunaux que des Conseils Administratifs des Provinces."

Again, as regards the farming of the taxes, the Memorandum of May 15, 1867, to which I have already referred, stated that "The system of farming taxes has been suppressed, except as regards the tithes, with regard to which the system of direct collection has been tried for five years, and has not produced the results anticipated therefrom: on the one hand, direct collection has, in fact, occasioned a sensible diminution in the revenue derived from tithes; and, on the other, the populations have almost unanimously pronounced against this system, preferring one which permits a discharge in kind. The Imperial Government has accordingly had to renounce this system, and to revert to that of farming, into which it has, however, introduced a modification very favourable to the agricultural population. This modification consists in granting the farming of the tithes in each village by means of a separate public auction, and in permitting the commune itself to become the purchaser of the tithe at the sum to which the rate has raised it. Another relief extended to the mode of collecting the tithes is permission to the husbandman either to effect himself the transport of the produce of the tithe with which he is chargeable, or to exonerate himself therefrom subject to an indemnity in kind payable to the farmer, without being constrained, as formerly, to abandon his labours at a season when his presence in the fields is most necessary. Lastly, to do away with a source of abuse often and justly pointed out, it is forbidden to any officer of the State to become purchaser of tithes directly or indirectly, and the Penal Code provides for and punishes every infraction of this prohibitive measure."

The Firman of the 12th of December states:—

"Indépendamment de la suppression du quart supplémentaire de la dîme, suppression qui a été récemment décrétée par l'effet de notre sollicitude Impériale pour le bien-être de tous nos sujets, on doit encore prendre les mesures les plus efficaces pour

prévenir l'arbitraire dans la perception de la dîme par l'intermédiaire des fermiers, et pour empêcher également qu'aucun dommage ne soit porté soit à nos populations agricoles soit à notre Trésor Impérial."

Her Majesty's Government have been informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, that the entire suppression of the system of tax-farming is resolved upon, and that the best mode of levying the taxes for the future is under the consideration of the Porte.

On this point also, therefore, the views of the Porte may be said to be already in accordance with the recommendations contained in Count Andrassy's despatch.

It must, however, be obvious that a re-adjustment of the mode of levying the taxes in money instead of in kind, unless carefully adapted to local circumstances and requirements, might give rise to much injustice and distress.

Still, as regards the two questions of religious liberty and of the abolition of the system of tax-farming, a general agreement of the Porte and the Powers may be said to be in principle already secured.

The third point, that of the application of direct taxation in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the benefit of those districts, is scarcely sufficiently explained for Her Majesty's Government to be able to appreciate its scope. They are not aware of the proportion which the direct may bear to the indirect taxes, nor of the exact signification which in Turkey may be attached to the expressions "direct" and "indirect" taxation. Her Majesty's Government believe that certain direct taxes have been hypothecated as security for foreign loans, and in making any recommendation to the Porte on this point it would seem to be necessary to bear this in mind.

It is questionable, too, whether such a system could be applied to one portion of the Empire alone, without being eventually extended to neighbouring provinces, or possibly to the whole of the Turkish dominions, and any plan which should have for its ultimate and logical result the withdrawal of the whole direct taxation of the Empire from the Treasury, might have a most serious effect in impeding the execution of those public works and other measures of general utility upon which the improvement of the condition of the population depends.

At the same time if it can be shown that taxes levied for local purposes in the nature of rates have been misapplied, and just cause for complaint thus given, the matter is one which the Porte might well be counselled to consider and remedy.

The fourth point, namely, the institution of a Special Commission composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and Christians, has, Her Majesty's Government understand, been already to some extent provided for. A council has, in fact, already commenced its sittings at Constantinople for the purpose of carrying out the Firman of December 12th. As, according to the Law of the Vilayets, to which I have already adverted, the principle of mixed councils to assist the Vali is recognised, Her Majesty's Government do not see that the Porte need experience any difficulty in organising a mixed council in the manner and for the purpose proposed by Count Andrassy. Indeed, it would appear from the "Règlement relatif aux attributions du Conseil Exécutif," received on the 18th instant from Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, that this has already been ordered.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of this document in case it may not already have been forwarded to your Excellency.

The fifth point, the improvement of the condition of the agricultural population, might, it is explained, be attained by allowing the peasants to purchase portions of uncultivated lands on easy terms from the State.

Count Andrassy refers to a law on this subject, which I presume to be that of the 21st of April, 1858, consolidating and amending the laws relating to landed property in Turkey. This law provided that uncultivated lands belonging to the State might, with the consent of the authorities, become the property of the person who undertook to reclaim them, on payment of a certain sum.

Her Majesty's Government are not aware what may be the extent or redeemable value of any waste lands of this description in Bosnia and Herzegovina, nor do they see how the peasants could be benefited in the manner suggested, unless assisted by capital, which it must be presumed that they do not at present possess. The question, however, of the grant of lands to the labouring population is one which presents many difficulties both of principle and detail. In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it could only be satisfactorily dealt with after local investigation and discussion by competent persons. The Firman of December 12 states:—

"Dans certaines parties de notre Empire nos sujets non-Musulmans ne peuvent pas devenir propriétaires, et sont employés dans les fermes. Cet état de choses étant contraire à nos sentiments de justice, il n'existera plus désormais aucune distinction entre nos sujets, soit pour la possession des terres vacantes vendues par adjudication, soit pour la possession des terres et biens qui sont vendus par des particuliers. En conséquence, on leur assurera la jouissance, sur le pied de la plus complète égalité, des dispositions de la loi sur la propriété foncière."

Count Andrassy alleges that the Firman of 1858 has never been brought into operation in Bosnia. As the Porte now recognizes the justice of the complaint of the Christian population in some places in this regard, this matter also might well be considered as one upon which there is in principle a mutual agreement, so far at least as the application of the Law of 1858 is concerned.

Your Excellency will have observed from the foregoing remarks that Her Majesty's Government see nothing in the five points proposed by Count Andrassy to which they cannot give a general support; although, on the other hand, the proposed reforms relating to taxation and grants of land involve in their detailed application to districts like Bosnia and Herzegovina many questions upon which they are not prepared, in their present state of information, to offer a definite opinion.

Her Majesty's Government are well aware of the burdens and anxiety which the existence of an insurrection in the immediate neighbourhood of the Dalmatian frontier must entail upon Austria-Hungary, and they cannot consider it to be either unreasonable or undesirable that the Cabinet of Vienna should desire to tender to the Porte suggestions for the pacification of the disturbed districts.

They rely upon the assurances contained in Count Andrassy's despatch, and upon those which your Excellency has conveyed to me, that, if these suggestions are carried into effect, the Austro-Hungarian Government will, in concert with the other Powers whose united action Count Andrassy has invited, use their best exertions to prevent the spread of the movement and to induce the insurgents to submit, or effectually preclude them from receiving assistance from beyond the frontier, should they persist in continuing the struggle.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will accordingly be instructed to give a general support to the proposals of the Austro-Hungarian Government, and to act with his colleagues for this purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 73.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 25, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of the answer* which I have returned to the despatch from Count Andrassy containing proposals for the pacification of the insurgent districts in Herzegovina and Bosnia, of which I transmitted a copy to your Excellency in my despatch of the 3rd instant.

Your Excellency will see that, after examining the proposals contained in Count Andrassay's despatch, Her Majesty's Government have come to the conclusion that there is nothing in them to which they cannot give a general support.

On the outbreak of the insurrection, when appealed to by the Porte to use their good offices with the Austro-Hungarian Government, and at Belgrade and Cettigné, Her Majesty's Government expressed their opinion, in my despatch to your Excellency of the 12th of August, that the Turkish Government should rely on their own resources to suppress the insurrection, and should deal with it as a local outbreak rather than give international importance to it by appealing for support to other Powers.

Had the advice thus tendered been acted upon by the Porte, and vigorous measures taken at the outset for the restoration of order, it is probable that the insurrection would not have attained its present proportions, nor afforded grounds for proposing a Consular Mission to the disturbed districts.

When such a Mission was proposed, the Grand Vizier addressed to your Excellency a request that the British Consul might be instructed to join the Mission. I thereupon informed your Excellency, in my despatch of the 24th of August, that Her Majesty's Government consented to this step with reluctance, as they doubted the

* No. 72.

expediency of the intervention of foreign Consuls. Such an intervention, I remarked, was scarcely compatible with the independent authority of the Porte; it offered an inducement to insurrection as a means of appealing to foreign sympathy against Turkish rule, and it might not improbably open the way to further diplomatic interference in the internal affairs of the Empire.

Since, however, the Porte had begged your Excellency not to stand aloof, Her Majesty's Government felt that they had no alternative. They desired, at the same time, that the Turkish Government should understand that the assent of Her Majesty's Government was given at their own instance, and that Her Majesty's Government would have thought it better that the Porte should have dealt with the insurgents without foreign intervention of any kind.

The Mission of the Consuls had no practical results in inducing the insurgents to lay down their arms. What little benefit might have arisen from it was defeated by the ill-advised proceedings of the Turkish troops, as reported in Consul Holmes' despatch of the 28th of September.

The Porte has now again requested Her Majesty's Government not to hold aloof from the concerted action of the Powers. This request must be regarded as a pledge on the part of the Porte that the counsels of the Austro-Hungarian Government, to which the Governments of all the other Powers have adhered, and to which the general support of Her Majesty's Government is extended, will be received in a friendly spirit, and that effect will be given to them in a manner which may tend to the pacification of the disturbed districts by showing that the Porte is really determined to carry into execution its promises of reform.

The proposals of Count Andrassy amount, indeed, to little more than a request that the Porte will execute the Hatti-Scheriff of Gulhané of 1839, the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856, and the Iradé and Firman of the 2nd October and 12th of December last; in short, that the measures for the improvement of the condition of the non-Mussulman and rural population generally throughout the Empire, which have been publicly proclaimed, should be brought into practical application. Some of these measures do not affect the Christian subjects of the Porte alone, but would benefit the whole population alike. The abolition of tithe-farming, for instance; which must be felt as an especial relief by the owners of land, who, in Bosnia, at all events, are for the most part Mohammedans.

Her Majesty's Government do not, therefore, consider that the proposals of Count Andrassy conflict with the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris; they look on them as being in the nature of suggestions or recommendations for adoption by the Porte in its endeavours to put an end to the insurrection, and as not involving any interference in the relations existing between the Sultan and his subjects, nor in the internal administration of his Empire.

Nor do Her Majesty's Government see that the Porte need feel any difficulty in acting upon the advice thus given, and in communicating to the Powers in some form the measures which may be proposed in consequence. All the different Firmans and Règlements of a similar character have at various times been officially notified to the Powers. The Hatti-Sheriff of Gulhané contains an express clause to this effect:—"Les dispositions ci-dessus arrêtées étant une alteration et une rénovation complète des anciens usages, ce rescrit Impérial sera publié à Constantinople et dans tous les lieux de notre Empire, et devra être communiqué officiellement à tous les Ambassadeurs des Puissances amies résidants à Constantinople, pour qu'ils soient témoins de l'octroi de ces institutions qui, s'il plaît à Dieu, dureront à jamais." The Hatti-Humayoun of 1856 was also officially forwarded by the Turkish Government to the Ambassadors, with a statement that the Sublime Porte renewed and confirmed the assurances previously given to the Governments of England and France with regard to the treatment of renegades. The Imperial Firman for the reorganization of the Government of Crete in 1867, and the Règlement for the administration of the Lebanon in 1864, were also similarly notified.

Your Excellency has suggested in your telegraphic despatch of the 17th instant, that the Porte might issue a supplementary Firman decreeing the fresh reforms now proposed, and Her Majesty's Government see no objection to this course if the other Powers will consider it satisfactory.

In a matter, however, of such importance, and one in which the Porte has so much to gain by securing the support of the Powers, it would not be wise that too great regard should be paid to mere formalities.

What appears to Her Majesty's Government to be essential is that the Porte should act promptly and vigorously in the execution of the reforms. It is evident from the reports of Her Majesty's Consuls that the native Mussulmans in Bosnia and Herze-

govina, and even the local authorities, have not realized to themselves the importance of frankly accepting, and honestly executing, the reforms already decreed.

Your Excellency should therefore strongly impress on the Porte that it is indispensable that the officers appointed to execute these reforms should be men of energy and determination, who will not be deterred by local apathy or prejudices, who will be able and willing to repress with severity such atrocities as the murders of the returning refugees at Popovopolic (reported by Consul Holmes on the 26th of October), and who will do their utmost to restore a feeling of security to the Christian population. Unless such a feeling can be produced, no effectual pacification of the insurgent districts can reasonably be expected.

In accordance with what I have stated in the inclosed communication to the Austrian Government, your Excellency is authorised to give a general support to the proposals contained in Count Andrassy's despatch, and summed up by him under five heads, without, however, pledging Her Majesty's Government to the details of those parts of his Excellency's proposals on which Her Majesty's Government have been unable to give a definite opinion.

As Count Andrassy does not propose that a collective note should be addressed to the Porte, your Excellency will confine your representations to the usual form of oral communications to the Grand Vizier or to Raschid Pasha, acting, so far as may be possible within the limits I have indicated, in concert with your colleagues the Representatives of Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia.

Your Excellency should also take an early opportunity of making the Porte acquainted with the general tenor of this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 74.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 25, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of the reply which I have returned to the despatch from Count Andrassy respecting the pacification of the Herzegovina and Bosnia,† of which a copy was transmitted to your Excellency in my despatch No. 4 of the 4th instant.

Your Excellency will observe that Her Majesty's Government have decided to give a general support to Count Andrassy's proposals, without pledging themselves to administrative details, on which they have not been able to form a definite opinion.

Your Excellency will communicate a copy of this reply to the German Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 75.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 25, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for your information and for communication to the French Government, a copy of the reply which I have returned to the despatch from Count Andrassy,† of which a copy was inclosed in my despatch of the 4th instant.

In communicating this paper to the Duc Decazes your Excellency may take an opportunity of pointing out to him that Her Majesty's Government have, as he will see, agreed in the view expressed by him to your Excellency with regard to the proposals of Count Andrassy on the subject of the application of direct taxation.

Your Excellency may also state that Her Majesty's Government have instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to confine his representations in giving a

* Similar despatches were addressed to Sir A. Buchanan, Lord A. Loftus, and Sir A. Paget.
† No. 72.

general support to Count Andrassy's proposals to oral communications, as the Duc Decazes had suggested to your Excellency might be expedient.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 76.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 25, 1876.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information and guidance in your communications with the Russian Government a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir H. Elliot† instructing him to give his general support to the proposals of the Austro-Hungarian Government, contained in Count Andrassy's despatch of the 30th ultimo, for the pacification of the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 77.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 27.)

My Lord, *Pera, January* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose two official announcements respecting the reorganization of the police, and the regulations which are under the consideration of the Commission to prevent persons arrested upon suspicion being retained in prison without examination or trial.

I have, &c
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Official Communication.

L'ORGANISATION et les attributions de la police étant en ce moment l'objet des délibérations d'une Commission *ad hoc*, les décisions qui auront été prises à cet égard seront ultérieurement publiées.

Un des devoirs des agents de la force publique est de conduire au commissariat central de police les individus arrêtés en flagrant délit de rixe ou de crime.

La manière avec laquelle les prévenus devront être arrêtés et conduits au dit commissariat va être déterminée.

Mais, considérant que les individus ainsi conduits sont détenus sans enquête préalable; qu'ils sont emprisonnés préventivement jusqu'à ce qu'il ait été légalement statué sur leur mise en liberté ou leur condamnation;

Considérant qu'il est nécessaire de ne pas détenir plus longtemps les prévenus à la suite de l'ordonnance de non lieu;

Que par suite de l'agglomération ainsi produite dans les prisons, les tribunaux ne peuvent suffire à la solution des affaires qui leur sont référées, que dès lors cette détention constitue une peine non-méritée pour des personnes innocentes et qu'aussi des difficultés en résultent pour les tribunaux;

Pour tous ces motifs il a été arrêté ce qui suit:

1. Un comité d'enquête préliminaire composé d'un président et de deux membres est institué dans chaque commissariat central de police;

2. Les prévenus mis en état d'arrestation seront tout d'abord conduits par devant le dit comité, qui, après avoir pris connaissance des procès-verbaux d'arrestation dressés par les zaptiés, devra procéder à l'interrogatoire des prévenus, et n'ordonnera leur emprisonnement que dans le cas où il serait reconnu que les causes qui ont motivé l'arrestation justifient la détention et la mise en jugement;

* Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Odo Russell, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Buchanan, and Sir A. Paget.
† No. 73.

3. Les personnes dont la détention ne sera pas jugée nécessaire, seront relâchées après avoir fourni le garant voulu.

4. Le comité dressera journellement, pour les transmettre dans les vingt-quatre heures au Ministère de la Police et à la Sublime Porte, les procès-verbaux des personnes arrêtées, et mises en liberté faute de causes motivant l'arrestation, ainsi que de celles dont le renvoi devant les tribunaux de première instance sera jugé nécessaire. Les procès-verbaux relateront sommairement les causes qui auront motivé la détention préventive.

Ces mesures seront également appliquées dans tous les chefs-lieux des Vilayets, Mutessarifliks et Cazas de l'Empire.

(Translation.)

THE organization and attributions of the police are at this moment the object of the deliberations of a Commission *ad hoc*, and the decisions which may be come to on this subject will hereafter be published.

One of the duties of the agents of the police is to take to the central police station individuals arrested in the very act, either for fighting or any other crime.

The way in which the accused are to be arrested and taken to the said station will be settled hereafter.

But, taking into consideration that the individuals thus arrested are detained without preliminary inquiry; that they are imprisoned for purposes of prevention until the question of their discharge or condemnation has been legally decided;

And considering that it is necessary not to detain the accused any longer, in consequence of the "Ordonnance" relative to insufficiency of evidence;

That, in consequence of the accumulation thus caused in the prisons, the Tribunals are insufficient to decide the matters referred to them; that, consequently, this detention amounts to an undeserved penalty for innocent persons, and that difficulties also result therefrom to the Tribunals;

For all these reasons, it has been decided as follows:—

1. A preliminary Committee of Inquiry, composed of a President and two members, is instituted at each central commissariat of police;

2. The prisoners who have been arrested will, in the first instance, be taken before the said Committee, who, after having taken cognizance of the minutes of the arrest drawn up by the zapties, will proceed to the examination of the prisoners, and will only order their imprisonment, in case that it is established that the causes which brought about the arrest justify their detention and trial;

3. The persons, whose detention shall not be judged necessary, shall be released, after having furnished the required guarantee;

4. The Committee will daily draw up, for transmission within twenty-four hours to the Minister of Police at the Sublime Porte, the *procès-verbaux* of the persons arrested and discharged for want of sufficient reasons for the arrest, as well as of those whom it is judged necessary to send before the Tribunals of First Instance. The *procès-verbaux* will give a summary of the reasons on which the preventive confinement was founded.

These measures will be applied in a similar manner in all the chief towns of the Vilayets, in the Mutessarifliks, and Cazas of the Empire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Official Communication.

LA réorganisation de la police comprend les quatre divisions suivantes:—

La première division consiste en le service et les attributions de la police proprement dite, lesquels après avoir été spécifiés par un règlement qui sera élaboré par la Commission *ad hoc* seront livrés à la publicité.

La seconde division comprend la perception. Les agents percepteurs seront choisis parmi toutes les classes de la population, et leurs services et attributions sont déterminés dans les instructions spéciales déjà publiées.

La troisième division comprend la surveillance. Les agents de la force publique seront également choisis parmi toutes les classes de la population.

Le Conseil Exécutif aura à rédiger et à publier des instructions spéciales servant à déterminer l'exercice des fonctions de ces agents.

La quatrième division comprend le service des huissiers des Tribunaux et des Conseils. Ces employés seront de même pris parmi les populations, et le Conseil Exécutif dressera, pour être publiées et mises en vigueur, les instructions nécessaires déterminant leurs attributions.

Le personnel formant les trois dernières divisions précitées, portera chacun un uniforme particulier.

(Translation.)

THE reorganization of the police comprises the four following divisions:—

The first division comprises the duties and attributions of the police properly so called, which, when they are settled by regulations to be drawn up by the Commission *ad hoc*, shall be published.

The second division comprises the collection of taxes.

The tax-gatherers are to be chosen from all classes of the population, and their duties and attributions are laid down in the special instructions already published.

The third division comprises duties of supervision. The agents of the force shall also be chosen from among all classes of the population.

It will be the duty of the Executive Council to draw up and publish special instructions regulating the exercise of the duties of these officers.

The fourth division comprises the officers of the Tribunals and Councils. These officers will also be chosen from among the population, and the Executive Council will draw up the necessary instructions determining their attributions, with a view to publishing and putting them in force.

The persons forming the staff of the three last aforesaid divisions will all wear a special uniform.

No. 78.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 27.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, January* 17, 1876.

THE messenger bringing me the copy of Count Andrassy's despatch of the 30th ultimo to Count Beust, only arrived yesterday, having been delayed a week on the road by the snow.

I have found it impossible by telegraph to enter into any full examination of this important document, and was obliged to confine myself to stating generally to your Lordship that the proposals with which it concludes, if put into an identic instruction to the representatives here (which is understood to be what is intended), would, in my opinion, be accepted by the Porte without much difficulty.

Most of the things asked for have already been conceded by the Porte, or are about to be announced; but there are others upon which explanations will be necessary, and especially the proposal that the whole proceeds of the direct taxation shall be devoted to the necessities of the provinces within which they are levied.

There may be some difficulty as to the manner in which the Porte is to convey its acquiescence in the suggested measures.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 27.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, January* 18, 1876.

THERE seems to be an impression, for which I cannot account, that the Firman of December was not officially communicated to the Powers.

Your Lordship is aware that the Firman was sent by an official note to each of the Representatives of the Great Powers by the Sultan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, which is, I apprehend, the most formal mode of making an official communication that could have been adopted.

No. 80.

General Instructions relating to the Election of Members of Tribunals and of Councils of Vilayets.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, January* 28.)

CONFORMEMENT aux dispositions du Firman Impérial récemment promulgué, les sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan de toutes les classes sont autorisés à élire eux-mêmes, et en dehors de toute influence administrative, les membres des Tribunaux et des Conseils siégeant dans les vilayets. Le pouvoir électif qui leur est ainsi conféré, en ce qui concerne les membres tant des Cours d'Appel des Vilayets et des Medjliss Temyz des Sandjaks que des Tribunaux Civils des Cazas et des Conseils Administratifs, s'exercera aux conditions suivantes :

Article 1. Seront électeurs tous ceux des habitants de toute catégorie des campagnes qui seront âgés de 20 ans et qui payent l'impôt. Le choix des populations devra tomber sur des électeurs dignes de confiance pour procéder à l'élection des membres des Conseils.

Art. 2. Les personnes qui éliront les membres auront à réunir les qualités suivantes : 1°, âge de 23 ans ; 2°, n'avoir pas subi de condamnation pour crime ; 3°, n'avoir exercé aucune vexation envers personne ; 4°, ne pas avoir des attaches personnelles avec les éligibles.

Art. 3. Seront éligibles ceux qui, indépendamment des conditions déterminées dans le précédent Article pour les électeurs, seront instruits et âgés au moins de trente ans.

Art. 4. Les villages et quartiers dépendant d'un Caza et réunissant pour le moins 200 maisons, formeront un collége électoral. Lors de l'élection, ces colléges et les arrondissements du chef-lieu des Cazas désigneront chacun deux électeurs, lesquels se réuniront dans ce chef-lieu pour procéder à l'élection d'un nombre de membres égal au double de celui fixé pour le Tribunal Civil et le Conseil Administratif du Caza. La moitié des personnes ainsi élues sera désignée par le Gouvernement pour occuper les postes de membres aux Conseils Administratifs et Judiciaires.

Art. 5. Aussitôt que l'élection des Cazas aura été faite, les membres élus des Conseils Administratifs et Judiciaires du Caza étant naturellement les représentants de la population, doivent se rendre dans le chef-lieu du Sandjak dont ils relèvent, pour en former le Medjliss Temyz et le Conseil Administratif. Dans le cas où tous ne voudraient pas se rendre au dit chef-lieu, il leur sera loisible de déléguer de leur part des personnes de leur confiance prises dans leur sein. Il importe toutefois que le nombre des électeurs se rendant dans les Sandjaks ne soit pas limité à une ou deux personnes. Tous les électeurs de chaque Caza, ainsi réunis, auront à procéder en dehors de toute influence et de toute ingérence de l'autorité locale, à l'élection d'un nombre de membres égal au double de celui fixé pour les Medjliss Temyz et les Conseils Administratifs. La moitié de ces mêmes élus sera désignée par le Gouverneur-Général pour composer les Medjliss en question du chef-lieu.

Art. 6. Les membres désignés par voie d'élection pour les Conseils des Sandjaks, en leur qualité de mandataires de la population, se rendront aux chefs-lieux des Vilayets et procéderont, en dehors de toute influence ou de toute ingérence aussi bien du Gouverneur-Général que de tous les autres fonctionnaires du vilayet, à l'élection du double du nombre fixé des membres de la Cour d'Appel et du Conseil Administratif. Conformément au mode déterminé dans le précédent Article, la moitié de ces élus sera désignée par le Gouverneur-Général, comme membre de ces Medjliss, avec la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

Art 7. Il n'est pas obligatoire que les élus, pour les chefs-lieux des Sandjaks et des Vilayets, soient exclusivement pris parmi les notables et les habitants de ces chefs-lieux. On peut élire parmi les habitants des Cazas des membres pour les Conseils des Sandjaks et parmi ceux des Sandjaks pour les Conseils des Vilayets. Les électeurs des villages pourront également être élus membres pour les Cazas, à condition qu'ils réunissent en eux les qualités requises pour les membres eux-mêmes.

Art. 8. L'égalité du nombre des membres des tribunaux et des Conseils sera maintenue. Seul un membre sera ajouté aux trois autres des Conseils Judiciaires des Cazas. Ces membres seront par moitié Musulmans et moitié non-Musulmans, et ils seront répartis entre les diverses communautés. Dans le cas où il y aurait plus de trois communautés, chacune d'elles fournira, à tour de rôle, son contingent de membres pour une année.

(Translation.)

IN accordance with the dispositions of the Imperial Firman recently promulgated, the subjects of His Majesty the Sultan, of all classes, are authorized to elect them-

selves, and without any influence on the part of the Government, the members of Tribunals and of the Councils sitting in the Vilayets. The elective power which is thus conferred on them, in so far as it concerns the members, whether of the Courts of Appeal of the Vilayets, and of the Medjliss Temyse of the Sandjaks or the Civil Tribunals of the Cazas, and of the Administrative Councils, shall be exercised under the following conditions:—

Article 1. All the inhabitants of the country districts of every kind, who shall be of the age of twenty years, and who pay taxes, will be electors. The choice of the people must fall on electors worthy of confidence to proceed to the election of members of Councils.

Art. 2. The persons who shall elect the members will have to possess the following qualifications:—(1), they must be of the age of 23 years; (2), they must never have undergone a criminal sentence; (3), they must never have molested anybody; (4), they must have no personal connection with the persons qualified to be elected.

Art. 3. These qualified Candidates must, independently of the conditions prescribed in the preceding Article for the electors, be well educated, and at least thirty years old.

Art. 4. The villages and suburbs of a Caza, numbering at least 200 houses, will form an electoral college. When an election takes place these colleges and the districts of the chief town of the cazas will name each of them two electors, who will meet in this chief town to proceed to the election of just double the number of members fixed for the Civil Tribunal and the Administrative Council of the Caza. Half the persons thus chosen will be nominated by the Government to occupy the posts of members of the Administrative and Judicial Councils.

Art. 5. As soon as the election of the Cazas shall have been concluded, the members of the Administrative and Judicial Councils elected, being naturally the representatives of the people, are to betake themselves to the chief town of the Sandjak to which they belong, to form the Medgliss Temyse and the Administrative Council. In the event that all do not wish to go to the said chief town, they may, if they like, delegate on their behalf persons in their confidence chosen from among themselves. It is necessary in any case that the number of electors going to the sandjaks should not be limited to one or two persons. All the electors of every Caza, thus assembled, will proceed, free from all influence or interference of the local authorities, to the election of a number of members equal to the double of that fixed for the Medgliss Temyse and the Administrative Councils. Half of the elected will be nominated by the Governor-General to compose the said Medgliss of the chief town.

Art. 6. The members elected for the Councils of the Sandjaks, in their capacity of representatives of the people will go to the chief towns of the Vilayets and will proceed free from all influence or interference, either on the part of the Governor-General, or of any other officials of the Vilayet, to the election of double the number of members settled for the Court of Appeal and the Administrative Council. In accordance with the manner determined in the preceding Article, half of those elected will be nominated by the Governor-General as members of these Medgliss, with the sanction of the Sublime Porte.

Art. 7. It is not obligatory that the representatives for the chief towns of the Sandjaks and of the Vilayets should be exclusively taken from the upper classes and inhabitants of these chief towns. Members of the Councils of the Sandjaks may be elected from among the inhabitants of the Cazas, and members of the Councils of the Vilayets from among the inhabitants of the Sandjaks. The electors of the villages are equally eligible as members of the Cazas, provided they possess the qualifications required for the members themselves.

Art. 8. The equality of the number of the members of the Tribunals and of the Councils will be maintained. Only one member will be added to the other three of the Judicial Councils of the Cazas. These members will be half of them Mussulmans, and half non-Mussulmans, and they will be distributed among the different communities. In the event of there being more than three communities, each of them will furnish in turn its contingent of members for the year.

No. 81.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 28, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador has addressed to me an inquiry what construction is to be placed on the term "general support," which, it is stated in my note to Count Beust, that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will be instructed to give to the representations of the Austro-Hungarian Government. Count Schouvaloff was anxious to know whether Sir H. Elliot would be authorised to join with his colleagues in urging on the Porte the necessity of notifying in a written form its acceptance of Count Andrassy's proposals.

I thought I could not do better than communicate to his Excellency in reply, the inclosed extracts from the instructions sent to Sir Henry Elliot, the substance of which had been already forwarded to Constantinople by telegraph.

I pointed out to Count Schouvaloff that although no great stress had been laid on the exact form of communication, Her Majesty's Government had advised that the Porte should communicate to the Powers the measures adopted in consequence of their advice, and had warned the Porte against laying too much stress on formalities in matters of such importance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 81.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, January* 25, 1876.

NOR do Her Majesty's Government see that the Porte need feel any difficulty in acting upon the advice thus given, and in communicating to the Powers in some form the measures which may be proposed in consequence. All the different Firmans and Règlements of a similar character have at various times been officially notified to the Powers.

In a matter, however, of such importance, and one in which the Porte has so much to gain by securing the support of the Powers, it would not be wise that too great regard should be paid to mere formalities.

What appears to Her Majesty's Government to be essential is, that the Porte should act promptly and vigorously in the execution of the reforms. It is evident from the reports of Her Majesty's Consuls that the native Mussulmans in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and even the local authorities, have not realised to themselves the importance of frankly accepting, and honestly executing, the reforms already decreed.

Your Excellency should therefore strongly impress on the Porte that it is indispensable that the officers appointed to execute these reforms should be men of energy and determination, who will not be deterred by local apathy or prejudices, and who will do their utmost to restore a feeling of security to the Christian population. Unless such a feeling can be produced, no effectual pacification of the insurgent districts can reasonably be expected.

No. 82.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 7.)

(Extract.) *Rome, February* 1, 1876.

IN conformity with the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, in an interview I had with M. Visconti Venosta the day before yesterday, I delivered to his Excellency a copy of your Lordship's note to Count Beust, of the 25th ultimo, in reply to the despatch from Count Andrassy, of the 30th of Decemher last, respecting the pacification of the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

No. 83.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 7.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, February* 2, 1876.

THE adhesion of Her Majesty's Government to the proposals submitted by Count Andrassy for the pacification of Herzegovina and Bosnia, although not entirely without reserve, has given great satisfaction here both in official and unofficial circles.

The good understanding between the European Powers is regarded as the best safeguard for the maintenance of peace.

No. 84.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, January* 28, 1876.

RASCHID PASHA has expressed the most lively satisfaction at the tenour of the instructions that your Lordship is forwarding to me, of which I communicated to him the telegraphic summary.

No. 85.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 30, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me to-day to inform me that he had received his instructions respecting Count Andrassy's proposals, and that he would communicate them to-morrow to Raschid Pasha

Those of the French Ambassador and the Italian Minister cannot arrive before the 4th or 5th of February.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 86.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 31, 1876.

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador having received his instructions yesterday, communicated them this morning to Raschid Pasha, and read to his Excellency Count Andrassy's despatch of the 30th ultimo.

He did not say that he was instructed to give a copy of it, nor did he offer to do so, but, in the course of the conversation which ensued, Raschid Pasha asked to be furnished with one to aid his memory and enable him to prepare an answer.

The despatch was then put into his hands.

This being the Minister's usual day of reception, I entered his Cabinet as the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador left it, and found that the interview had passed off most satisfactorily.

Raschid Pasha spoke of the friendly assurances with which the communication had been accompanied, and seemed fully disposed to accept them in a similar spirit.

There were, he said, exaggerations in the statements respecting the position of the Christians.

He would not, however, dwell upon these points, and he had promised the Ambassador that his communication should receive the immediate attention of the Porte, and he hoped to be able to return a satisfactory answer in a few days.

The only serious difficulty that Raschid Pasha saw connected with the five points put forward by Count Andrassy related to the proposal that all direct taxes should be devoted to local purposes.

By accepting this without reserve, the Porte might be taking an engagement, the extent of which he did not know.

I spoke to Raschid Pasha in the sense prescribed by your Lordship's telegraphic instructions giving, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, a warm general support to the proposals summed up by Count Andrassy, without pledging them to the details of the points on which they have been unable to give a definite opinion.

No. 87.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 3, 1876.

THE Representatives of the Great Powers have all by order of their Governments spoken to the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs in support of Count Andrassy's proposals.

No written note has been presented by any of them, nor did any except Count Zichy read to his Excellency Count Andrassy's despatch of the 30th December.

The French Ambassador not having got his written instructions, received a summary of them by telegraph, which he communicated to Raschid Pasha two days ago.

The instructions of the Italian Government not having yet arrived, Count Corti has confined himself to stating that they concurred with the other Powers in supporting the Austrian proposals.

No inconvenience whatever has been experienced by the delay in the arrival of some of the instructions; for while the Porte has been assured of the perfect unanimity of the Powers in recommending a general acceptance of the proposals, the absence of a simultaneous and identic mode of proceeding on the part of the Representatives may perhaps have been gratifying to the Porte as giving less appearance of a pressure put upon it than would have been seen in a concerted and simultaneous action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 88.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 15.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 10, 1876.

AT the recent Court ball on the 5th instant, the Emperor availed himself of the opportunity of expressing his very great satisfaction, and his thanks to Her Majesty's Government for having supported Count Andrassy's proposals at Constantinople; and he expressed a hope that, if the six Powers would cordially act together, nothing could occur to prevent the speedy pacification of the insurgent provinces.

I have, &c.
(For Sir Andrew Buchanan),
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 89.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the general support which your Excellency gave to the proposals of reform drawn up by Count Andrassy, as reported in your despatch of the 31st ultimo, without pledging Her Majesty's Government to the details of the points on which they have been unable to give a definite opinion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 90.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 6, 1876.

THE instructions of the Italian Government upon the Austrian proposals having arrived yesterday morning, Count Corti proceeded at once to the Porte and read them to Raschid Pasha, leaving his Excellency a copy of them.

They contained no intimation to Count Corti to embody them in a note.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 91.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 10, 1876.

THE inclosed notification of an important decision respecting the acquisition of land has just been officially published by the Porte.

The restrictions which existed in certain districts on the purchase of land by Christians is abolished, and they are placed in this respect upon a footing of perfect equality with Mussulmans.

The peasants or small farmers, under the designation of "cultivateurs," whether Mussulmans or non-Mussulmans, are also to have the preference in the acquisition of land put up for sale.

Raschid Pasha had mentioned to me some time ago that the Government, recognizing the necessity of giving this class facilities for becoming possessors of the land they cultivated, had resolved upon this measure for their relief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Extract from "La Turquie" of February 9, 1876.

NOUS publions ci-après une communication officielle ayant trait au droit de propriété foncière. Les dispositions qu'elle contient sont l'application directe du Firman Impérial. Il serait superflu de faire ressortir par des commentaires l'importance considérable de ce document, ainsi que ses résultats dans un prochain avenir pour l'extension de l'agriculture et le bien général des populations :

Communication Officielle.

"Article 1. Les sujets Musulmans et non-Musulmans de l'Empire pourront indistinctement acquérir des terres arables ainsi que des terres dépendant des fermes ou appartenant aux villages, et qui, étant propriétés de l'Etat ou des Vacoufs, seraient vendus par voie d'adjudication ou par voie de transfert si elles appartiennent à des particuliers.

"Dans le cas où certaines terres appartenant à l'Etat et aux Vacoufs n'auraient pu, en conformité d'un ancien usage, être transférées à des sujets non-Musulmans de l'Empire, cet usage sera aboli et les dispositions de la présente loi seront indistinctement appliquées.

"Art. 2. Le transfert des terres et immeubles entre sujets Musulmans et non-Musulmans sera opéré avec une parfaite égalité conformément aux dispositions de la loi qui régit la matière.

"Art. 3. Les cultivateurs Musulmans et non-Musulmans établis dans certaines fermes jouiront du droit de préférence dans l'acquisition des terres vendues, soit par voie d'adjudication, soit par voie de transfert de la part des particuliers."

(Translation.)

WE publish below an official communication bearing upon the right of landed property. The dispositions which it contains are the direct application of the Imperial

Firman. It would be superfluous to set forth by commentaries the considerable importance of this document, as well as its results in a not remote future for the extension of agriculture, and the general welfare of the populations.

Official Communication.

"Article 1. The Mussulman and non-Mussulman subjects of the Empire will be able, without any distinction, to acquire arable lands, as well as lands belonging to farms or to villages, and which, being property of the State or the Vacoufs, may be sold either by auction or by a transfer if they belong to private persons.

"In the event of its not having been possible, according to ancient custom, to transfer certain lands belonging to the State or to Vacoufs to the non-Mussulman subjects of the Empire, this usage will be abolished, and the dispositions of the present law will be applied without distinction.

"Art. 2. The transfer of land and real property between Mussulman and non-Mussulman subjects will be effectuated with perfect equality in conformity with the dispositions of the law which regulates the matter.

"Art. 3. Mussulman and non-Mussulman farmers established on certain farms will have the right of preference in the acquisition of lands sold, whether by auction or by means of transfer on the part of private persons."

No. 92.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, February* 10, 1876.

AFTER the great fire at Pera in 1870, which left so many families houseless, a temporary permission was given to Christians to occupy houses in the Mahomedan quarters of Constantinople, and no slight surprise was felt some days ago when it was suddenly announced that this permission had been withdrawn.

The Porte, upon its attention being called to this notice, declared it to be unauthorized and contrary to the intentions of the Government, and an inquiry is now being made into the manner in which it came to be issued.

No. 93.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, February* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the Circular note which has been officially addressed by the Porte to the Representatives of the six Powers, in answer to the communication made to it of the proposals of the Austrian Government in reference to Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Four out of the five points contained in Count Andrassy's despatch of the 30th of December are unreservedly accepted, and the determination of the Sultan to give them full and immediate application is formally declared.

The point respecting the application of the produce of the direct taxes to local purposes has not been accepted; but the object which Count Andrassy had in view is to be obtained by another arrangement, to which exception is not likely to be taken.

After the opinion of the Administrative Council has been obtained upon the necessities of the different localities, a fixed sum from the general revenues of the Empire will be assigned for local purposes, the application of which will be under the control of the Provincial Councils.

Inclosure 1 in No. 93.

Raschid Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

(Circulaire.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le* 13 *Février,* 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que la Sublime Porte a examiné avec soin les cinq points concernant la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine et contenus dans la dépêche que

son Excellence le Comte Andrassy a adressée aux Représentants d'Autriche-Hongrie à Londres, à Paris, et à Rome et dont MM. les Ambassadeurs des trois Cours Impériales m'ont communiqué verbalement le contenu tout en m'en donnant lecture. Votre Excellence a bien voulu de son côté m'informer que le Gouvernement Britannique s'associait aux propositions contenues dans cette dépêche.

La Sublime Porte ayant acquis la conviction que les Puissances sont disposées d'exercer par tous les moyens en leur pouvoir une pression morale devant avoir pour but et pour effet la prompte pacification des districts insurgés afin de prévenir les complications qui pourraient surgir de la continuation des troubles dans l'Herzégovine, et voulant donner cette fois encore une preuve de sa déférence pour les conseils amicaux des Grandes Puissances aussi bien que de son vif désir de ramener l'ordre et le bien-être parmi ses sujets égarés, je m'empresse de faire part à votre Excellence de la résolution arrêtée par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ayant pris acte des bienveillantes dispositions précitées des Puissances, a ordonné en vertu d'un Iradé Impérial en date du 15 Mouharem, 1293, la mise immédiate en exécution en Bosnie et en Herzégovine des quatre sur les cinq points formulés dans leurs propositions et se déclare résolu à les mettre en vigueur dans toute leur intégrité dans ces deux provinces.

Votre Excellence relevera de la lecture des instructions, dont ci-jointe copie, que je viens d'adresser aux Représentants de Sa Majesté le Sultan auprès des Grandes Puissances, que le cinquième point a été remplacé par une combinaison qui répond amplement aux besoins de ces provinces ainsi qu'aux intentions qui ont inspiré la proposition y relative de son Excellence le Comte Andrassy.

En informant votre Excellence de cette détermination de la Sublime Porte, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) RASCHID.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Ministry for Foreign Affairs, February* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Sublime Porte has carefully examined the five points concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina contained in the despatch which his Excellency Count Andrassy addressed to the Representatives of Austria-Hungary at London, Paris, and Rome, the contents of which the Ambassadors of the three Imperial Courts have verbally communicated to me by reading it to me. Your Excellency has also informed me on your side that the British Government associated itself with the propositions contained in that despatch.

The Sublime Porte being convinced that the Powers are disposed to exert by all the means in their power, a moral pressure, having for object and effect the prompt pacification of the insurgent districts, in order to obviate the complications which might arise from the continuation of the troubles in the Herzegovina, and anxious to give once more a proof of its deference for the friendly counsels of the great Powers, as well as of its hearty desire to restore order and well-being amongst its misled subjects, I hasten to communicate to your Excellency the decision arrived at by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

The Imperial Government having taken note of the above-mentioned friendly dispositions of the Powers, has ordered, by an Imperial Iradé dated the 15th Mouharem, 1293, the immediate carrying into execution of four out of the five points laid down in their propositions, and declares itself determined to put them in force in the two Provinces in all their integrity.

Your Excellency will perceive on reading the instructions which I have just addressed to the Representatives of His Majesty the Sultan at the Courts of the Great Powers, copies of which are inclosed, that the fifth point has been replaced by a combination which amply corresponds with the wants of these Provinces, and with the intentions which dictated the said proposition of his Excellency Count Andrassy.

In informing your Excellency of this determination of the Sublime Porte,

(Signed) RASCHID.

Inclosure 2 in No. 93.

Raschid Pasha to the Representatives of the Sublime Porte.

VOUS n'ignorez pas que son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale d'Autriche-Hongrie s'était entendu avec les Grandes Puissances pour conseiller à titre amical à la Sublime Porte certaines réformes à appliquer en Bosnie et

en Herzégovine, en vue d'amener, un moment plus tôt, la pacification de nos districts insurgés.

Il y a quelques jours M. le Comte Zichy, M. le Baron de Werther, et M. le Général Ignatiew, Ambassadeurs des trois Cours du Nord, m'ont communiqué verbalement le contenu d'une dépêche de M. le Comte Andrassy adressée le 30 Décembre, dernier aux Représentants d'Autriche-Hongrie à Paris, à Londres et à Rome.

De leur côté MM. les Représentants de France, d'Angleterre et d'Italie m'ont prévenu de l'adhésion de leurs Gouvernements aux idées suggérées par le Cabinet Austro-Hongrois. Ma dépêche télégraphique du 1er de ce mois a porté ce qui précède à votre connaissance.

La présence de la forme officieuse et amicale dans laquelle, comme je viens de le dire, cette communication nous a été faite, et comme aussi la même dépêche qui nous a été lue n'est pas directement à notre adresse, je crois tout à fait inutile d'entrer dans l'analyse de la teneur de ce document, et d'y relever certains points qui se prêtent à la discussion.

La Sublime Porte s'est donc bornée à s'occuper des cinq points qui résument les propositions du Comte, et les a examinés avec soin. Elle est convaincue de la ferme et sincère intention des Grandes Puissances de concourir d'une manière efficace à la prompte pacification des districts insurgés, et en conséquence, elle est heureuse de prendre acte de leurs dispositions bienveillantes. Elle n'a jamais enfin douté de la franchise et de la loyauté de leurs intentions à notre égard d'autant plus qu'elle même a tenu à cœur de ramener ces intéressantes populations égarées afin de les faire profiter à l'instar des autres provinces de l'Empire des bienfaits octroyés par le Firman du 12 Décembre dernier.

Soucieux du bien être de ses sujets sans distinction et voulant de sa haute et généreuse initiative étendre sur les districts révoltés aussi bien les faveurs déjà accordées que les mesures loyalement suggérées par le Comte Andrassy, mesures qu'il considère comme rentrant dans ses droits souverains et comme des améliorations complémentaires de celles déjà édictées par son récent et auguste rescrit, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan s'est plu à ordonner par un Iradé en date du 15 Mouharrem 1293 l'application des points suivants qui découlent des principes adoptés par la Sublime Porte et qui devront rentrer en pleine vigueur dans toutes les parties sans exception de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine.

Ces compléments de réformes se résument ainsi qu'il suit :

1. Liberté religieuse pleine et entière.
2. Abolition du système des fermages.
3. Amélioration de la situation agraire des paysans cultivateurs.
4. Institution d'une commission locale composée en nombre égal de Musulmans et de non-Musulmans pour surveiller l'exécution en général de toutes les réformes décrétées.

Quant au point du projet de M. le Comte Andrassy qui concerne l'emploi des impôts directs pour les besoins de la province même, la Sublime Porte peut observer que cette disposition ne saurait se conformer au système général de notre Administration financière.

Toutefois Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, dans ses sentiments de clémence et de haute sollicitude pour les contrées dévastées par l'insurrection, a voulu que leur situation soit prise en considération par son Gouvernement, vient en conséquence de décréter les mesures nécessaires pour affecter une somme qui sera fixée par ordre de Sa Majesté après avoir entendu les vœux des Conseils Administratifs basés sur les besoins des localités. Cette somme formera un supplément au revenu déjà alloué en Bosnie et en Herzégovine pour les besoins d'utilité publique. L'emploi des fonds destinés à ce dernier chapitre devra être minutieusement controlé par les Conseils provinciaux institués aux termes du Firman du 12 Décembre dernier.

Votre Excellence s'en tiendra essentiellement à cet ordre d'idées de la Sublime Porte, qui ne nous semble pas offrir une différence sensible entre la question concernant le fond et celle relative à la forme des propositions de M. le Comte Andrassy.

Je termine cette dépêche en déclarant, d'ordre de Sa Majesté notre auguste Maître, que le Gouvernement Impérial est fermement résolu à mettre dans toute leur intégrité à exécution ces réformes et à tenir la main à ce qu'aucune atteinte n'y soit portée.

Je vous prie, M. l'Ambassadeur, de donner lecture de ma présente dépêche à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de lui en laisser copie.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) RASCHID.

(Translation.)

YOU are aware that his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of His Royal and Imperial Majesty of Austria-Hungary had arranged with the Great Powers to recommend as a friend to the Sublime Porte certain reforms for application in Bosnia and in Herzegovina, with a view to induce, as soon as possible, the pacification of our insurgent districts.

Some days ago, Count Zichy, Baron Werther, and General Ignatiew, Ambassadors of the three Northern Courts, communicated to me verbally the contents of a despatch which Count Andrassy, addressed on the 20th of last December to the Representatives of Austria-Hungary at Paris, at London, and at Rome.

On their side, the Representatives of France, England, and Italy, have acquainted me with the adhesion of their Governments to the ideas suggested by the Austro-Hungarian Cabinet. My telegram of the 1st instant informed you of the above.

In view of the unofficial and friendly form in which, as I have just said, this communication was made to us, and since, moreover, the despatch which was read, was not directly addressed to ourselves, I consider it quite unnecessary to enter upon an analysis of the purport of this document, or to touch upon certain points which lend themselves to discussion.

The Sublime Porte has therefore confined itself to considering the five points which contain the proposals of the Count, and has examined them with care. We are persuaded of the firm and sincere intention of the Great Powers to co-operate in an efficacious manner for the prompt pacification of the insurgent districts, and consequently are glad to declare ourselves ready to avail ourselves of their friendly dispositions. We never doubted the frankness and loyalty of their intentions as regards ourselves, insomuch as we ourselves also were very anxious to bring back to reason these interesting but mistaken populations, in order to make them, like the other provinces of the Empire, reap benefit from the advantages granted to them by the Imperial Firman of the 12th of last December.

Anxious for the well-being of all his subjects without distinction, and desirous, in his high and generous initiative, to extend to the revolted districts both the favours already conceded as well as the measures loyally suggested by Count Andrassy, measures which he considers as appertaining to his sovereign rights, and as ameliorations supplementary to those already decreed by his recent august rescript, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has been pleased to ordain by an Iradé, dated 15th Mouharrem, 1293, the application of the following points, which are the necessary consequence of the principles adopted by the Sublime Porte, and which are to come into full force in all parts of Bosnia and the Herzegovina without exception.

These supplementary reforms may be summarized as follows :—

1. Full and entire religious liberty.
2. Abolition of the system of farming the taxes.
3. Amelioration of the agrarian position of the peasants who cultivate the soil.
4. The establishment of a Local Commission, composed in equal numbers of Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans, to superintend the general execution of all the reforms which have been decreed.

With regard to the clause in Count Andrassy's project which relates to appropriation of the direct taxes to the wants of the province itself, the Sublime Porte has to observe that this proposition cannot be brought into harmony with the general system of our financial administration.

However, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, with his feelings of clemency and anxiety for the districts ravaged by the insurrection, has determined that their situation shall be taken into consideration by his Government, and he consequently has just decreed the measures necessary for setting aside a certain sum, the amount of which will be settled by His Majesty's orders, after that he has heard the wishes of the Administrative Councils, based upon the wants of the several places.

This sum will form a supplement to the revenue already allotted to Bosnia and Herzegovina for purposes of public utility. The expenditure of the sums appropriated under this latter head will be minutely audited by the Provincial Councils, established according to the terms of the Firman of the 12th of December last.

Your Excellency will closely follow this order of ideas of the Sublime Porte, which seems to us to offer no perceptible difference between matters affecting the very basis and matters relating only to the form of Count Andrassy's propositions.

I conclude this despatch by declaring, by order of His Majesty our august Master,

that the Imperial Government is firmly resolved to carry out these reforms in all their integrity, and to take good care that they are not infringed in any way.

I request you, M. l'Ambassadeur, to read this despatch to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to give him a copy of it.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) RASCHID.

TURKEY. No. 3 (1876).

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY,

AND THE

INSURRECTION

IN

BOSNIA AND THE HERZEGOVINA.

(In continuation of Papers presented to Parliament, "Turkey No. 2, 1876.")

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

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Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey, and the Insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

(In continuation of Papers presented to Parliament, "Turkey No. 2, 1876.")

No. 1.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

My Lord, *Pera, January* 30, 1876.

THE following account of the system pursued by the Montenegrins in aid of the Herzegovina insurgents has been communicated to me from a person in a position to obtain the best information :—

All the men (in Montenegro) capable of bearing arms are considered to be soldiers, and are made into battalions of 600 men. The Commanders and Majors of these battalions, who are called Commanders and Pod-commanders, receive pay; the remaining officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, are unpaid. When an expedition is contemplated, each man takes with him potatoes and bread, if he has any, for five days, and a reserve of provisions from each village is carried by women or baggage horses.

The Austrian committees, having provided surgeons and medicines, hospitals and ambulances have been organized in some villages on the frontier.

The Prince furnishes all those who join the insurgents without authorization, but he sends about a fifth part of his effective forces into the Herzegovina. Not to overtire these poor people, His Highness takes care to change them at the end of each expedition or when their provisions are exhausted.

Reforms alone, it is stated, will never put an end to the insurrection, and force is of no avail so long as the insurgents and their Montenegrin friends have only to cross the frontier to be in safety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 2.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 15.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, February* 5, 1876.

ALTHOUGH the echoes which reach this place from Vienna and Berlin, and even from St. Petersburgh, are extremely pacific, and would lead one to suppose that political men in the continental capitals look upon the present disturbances in Turkey as in a fair way of being solved in the sense of Count Andrassy's project, it is my duty to report to your Lordship that there are numerous indications in Servia which, unfortunately, point to a contrary result.

The preparations which have been steadily going on for some months, and which are now prosecuted with renewed vigour, the extraordinary powers voted by the "Skoupstchina," and demanded by the Servian Administration, the activity of numerous unofficial agents, whose connections are well known, all confirm the supposition that something important is in contemplation.

With the return of spring, a supreme effort will probably be made to enlarge the area of the insurrection, and to delay a pacific solution in the Herzegovina, by importing into the shifting sands of Eastern politics a Bosnian and Servian, and, possibly, a Bulgarian, and other questions.

No. 3.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from Sir H. Elliot containing an account of the system pursued by the Montenegrins in aid of the Herzegovina insurgents;† and I have to request your Excellency to take an opportunity of making the Russian Government acquainted with the statements which have reached Sir H. Elliot, as reported in his Excellency's despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 4.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 17, 1876.

I INCLOSE for your Excellency's information copy of a correspondence with the Church Missionary Society, upon the subject of Mahometan fanaticism in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

The Secretaries to the Church Missionary Society to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 3.)

Church Missionary House, Salisbury Square,
My Lord, *February* 1, 1876.

THE Committee of the Church Missionary Society have had under their consideration some private letters from Missionaries in Turkey referring to the uneasy feeling which in different parts of the Ottoman Empire prevails among the Christian population lest their lives and property should be sacrificed by an outburst of Mahommedan fanaticism. The same may be gathered from communications which have appeared in the public journals.

Although the subject has probably attracted your Lordship's attention, and on this ground it may seem unnecessary for the Committee to trouble your Lordship, still they trust they may be pardoned for doing so, in consideration of their having carried on Christian work in the Ottoman Empire for a lengthened period of more than half a century, during which have occurred several ebullitions of Mahommedan fanaticism attended with serious loss of life. Without going so far back as 1821 when, during the Greek war of independence, the Mahommedans in a popular outburst seized the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople and ignominiously hanged him before the church in which he had been officiating, delivering his body to the Jews to be dragged through the streets, and at the same time committing other atrocities; and without referring to local disturbances, such as took place at Nablous in 1852, which although attended with loss of life, are not very generally known, it will suffice to mention the massacre at Damascus in 1860, when the Turkish authorities allowed a fanatical and bloodthirsty rabble to pillage and murder the Christian inhabitants without opposition or remonstrance. Still more recently occurred the murderous assault of last year on the Palestine Exploration and Survey party by the fanatical Moslems of Safed, when Lieutenants Cauder and Kitchener, and several others, with them, were wounded. These incidents, and others which might be recalled, quite justify the Christians in the apprehensions they now entertain.

It will be observed by the inclosed printed extract from a letter of the "Times" correspondent at Constantinople, dated January 4, 1876, that these apprehensions are not confined to the natives, but are also shared by the Europeans, some of whom have sent their wives and daughters away. This statement is confirmed by the Rev. Dr. Koelle, a discreet missionary of this Society, who has considerable experience

* A similar despatch was addressed to Sir A. Buchanan.
† No. 1.

of Orientals, having laboured in the Turkish Empire since 1856, and having resided for a greater part of this time in Constantinople itself. In a letter which has recently come to hand he writes as follows:—"You know from the newspapers in what a pitiable condition this country is. Of the insurgent provinces you know more in England than the Government allows to be made known here. Many of our English friends are sending the feminine part of their families out of the country to different parts from a fear of Mussulman risings. It might be better instead of sending their people away to induce the Ambassador to send for a few men-of-war to the Bosphorus, which would place not only their families, but the hundreds of thousands of native Christians, in security. Our trust is in the Lord who reigneth." Another missionary, the Rev. John Zeller, who has laboured in Palestine for more than twenty years, also refers, in a letter dated Beyrout, December 18, 1875, in the following terms, to the uneasy feelings which prevail:—"Politically, there is at present a lull; outwardly all seems quiet, but secretly there exists great anxiety. Nobody doubts that black clouds are gathering. Mr. Eldridge, the Consul-General, also acknowledged this, and said he would be very glad to see some English gunboats off our coast."

The Committee of the Church Missionary Society feel that it is altogether beyond their province to recommend the sending of armed men-of-war either to Constantinople or to the coast of Syria, as suggested in the communications which they have quoted. They trust, however, that your Lordship will not deem them to have trespassed beyond their functions in thus confidentially bringing to your notice the communications they have received, and that their solicitude to save their native fellow-Christians in Turkey from possible bloodshed and outrage will meet with your Lordship's sympathy and indulgence.

We have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY WRIGHT, } *Secretaries.*
EDWARD LAKE, }

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Mr. Lister to the Secretary to the Church Missionary Society.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 5, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, and I am to inform you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government, as at present advised, have no grounds to fear the outbreak of Mahommedan fanaticism in Turkey; but I am to add that a copy of your letter will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 5.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 5, 1876.

I WOULD submit to your Lordship that, although it would certainly be desirable that hostilities in the Herzegovina should cease during the introduction of the proposed reforms, the suggestion that a line of demarcation should be drawn between the troops and the insurgents is not one that could be put into practical execution.

The troops have for some time been in winter quarters, and ceased to act on the offensive, but they must keep up their communications between their military posts, and convey supplies to them.

The collisions which have latterly taken place were all caused by attempts of the insurgents to cut off the communications, to intercept the supplies, and to surprise detached positions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 6.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 8, 1876.

THE Porte is much disturbed by the unsatisfactory accounts received from the Governor-General of Bosnia, who has applied for fresh troops.

Bands, believed to consist of old Grenzers, are stated to have passed the Save from Austria at four different points, but have been repulsed.

The body which invaded Bosnia is stated to have consisted of 400 or 500 men, all well armed.

Much excitement is said to prevail on both sides of the Servian frontier, and apprehensions are entertained of an aggression from that quarter.

Raschid Pasha tells me that Count Zichy has given him, on the part of Count Andrassy, the strongest assurance that measures shall be adopted to prevent the recurrence of such acts, and has promised that those who have taken part in them shall be disarmed and "internés."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 7.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, February* 8, 1876.

THE assistance given by Servia and Montenegro to the Herzegovina insurgents has been commonly ascribed to a generous wish to help a kindred race to obtain redress for its grievances.

I repeatedly pointed out to your Lordship that what gave the insurrection its formidable character was the fact, apparently ignored by the Government most interested, that it was in reality a movement of national ambition.

The Prince of Servia has stated his views with frankness.

The strongholds of the insurrection are close to the frontiers of Montenegro, to which the people wish to be annexed, but Prince Milan declares that, if they are ceded to that Principality, he will at once declare war.

He would do so also if an Austrian force were to occupy any portion of Bosnia, for the purpose of insuring an equitable treatment of the people, and he would resist the grant to them of an autonomy, or the appointment of a Christian Governor.

If doubt were before possible, after the declarations of the Prince none can remain that the object of Servia is simply one of national aggrandisement.

No. 8.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 18.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 10, 1876.

I AM informed, upon what appears unquestionable authority, that the Sultan has sent an imperative order to the Grand Vizier to make up to him the amount deducted from his coupons under the late reduction of interest upon the public debt.

In another despatch I have spoken of the utter inability of the public Departments to provide for the most pressing necessities, and the Minister of War admits that he would at no moment be surprised to hear that the troops in the Herzegovina refuse to act if kept in their present state of destitution.

The Commander-in-chief there has telegraphed to impress upon the Porte the necessity of immediately providing him with a sum of money to meet their pressing necessities, and the Minister has little to send them.

If, with a knowledge of this state of things, the Sultan persists in making large calls upon the finances, the prospects of the Empire may well be looked upon with dismay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 9.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, February 3, 1876.*

THE late Imperial Firman of Reforms, the contents of which had already been communicated by telegraph and published in the Official Gazette, the "Bosna," was received here on the 1st instant from Constantinople. The chief authorities went out in uniform to meet the bearer of it, and a solemn procession was formed, escorted by a body of police and a battalion of infantry with military music, which accompanied him through the town to the Government Palace. The Firman was then immediately read by the Chief Secretary of the Vilayet from a raised platform erected for the purpose in front of the palace. A short prayer was said; the troops cried "Long live the Sultan!" a salute of twenty-one guns was fired from the fortress, and the ceremony ended.

No official notice had been given of the arrival of the Firman, or that it would be read in public, and there was consequently a very small number of the population present. The few that were there, both Christians and Mussulmans, seemed to treat the affair with the utmost indifference, as though it were a matter which did not in any way concern them.

In connection with judicial reforms, I may mention that the Government is certainly most unfortunate at the present moment in its selection of officials.

No. 10.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 11, 1876.*

THE announcement that the Sultan was unable to appear at the Friday noonday prayer, which it is the invariable habit of the Sovereign of this country to attend with much pomp, is calculated to give rise to much speculation.

The belief in His Majesty's death will probably be general, and some days may pass before the truth is known; for the demise of a Sultan is frequently kept concealed, and till His Majesty's next appearance in public there will be many among the Mahommedan classes who will believe in his death.

The importance attached to the attendance at the Friday's ceremony is so great that Sultans known to be dying have not ventured to omit it even within a few days of their death, although they have had to be supported on their horse; and one, at least, is said to have died in his saddle on the way to the mosque.

A near relative of the medical man who attended the late Sultan Abdul Medjid in his last illness assures me that on the Friday before his death the doctor besought His Majesty not to attempt to go to the mosque, but the Sultan had answered that he durst not venture to be absent, and I have heard from an eye-witness that he saw the Sultan pass with a mechanical contrivance by which he was fixed and supported in his saddle.

I mention these circumstances as showing that the ceremony in question has in the eyes of the Turkish population an importance which we can hardly understand.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 11.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 14, 1876.*

THE account of the encouragement and countenance given to the insurgents at Ragusa greatly exceeds all that I was prepared for.

The Russian Consulate is the open resort of the insurgent chiefs; their correspondence is sent to the Consul, who is a party to all their projects, and associates himself intimately with them.

He does not appear to make an attempt to conceal the part he is playing, for on the occasion of the death of the Chief Maxime, in one of the late encounters, the Russian flag at the Consulate was hoisted at half-mast, and M. Jonine himself joined the funeral procession.

With such acts as these it is not surprising that the insurgents should suppose their attempt to be fully approved by the Russian Government, for they can hardly be expected to believe that an accredited agent would venture upon them without knowing that it meets with the approval of his superior authorities.

Some of the wounded when asked why they continue to struggle, when the Porte is ready to grant all their demands, have answered plainly that they are bound to go on as long as they are told by Russia to do so.

The assurances given at St. Petersburgh of the wish of the Imperial Government that the insurgents would lay down their arms, must naturally go for nothing as long as its official Representative, with whom they are in communication, encourages them to go on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 12.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

My Lord, *Pera, February* 14, 1876.

A FEW days ago I received a telegram from Mr. White saying that great sensation had been caused at Belgrade, by a report that a negotiation was going on for the cession by Turkey of a seaport to Montenegro.

I have answered that no such negotiation is in progress, and that the Porte would not be likely to entertain the proposal at the present moment.

I had some conversation on the subject with Raschid Pasha this afternoon, when he said that it would be quite impossible for the Porte just now to make any new concession to the Principality, as it would inevitably be followed by corresponding demands from Servia, and perhaps from other quarters.

I asked whether without going into negotiations or taking an engagement to Montenegro it might not be possible to let the Prince understand that when everything was quiet, the Porte would not be indisposed to see whether an understanding could be come to to improve the relations of the two countries.

He said he did not think it would be desirable, for any intimation such as I suggested, however vague, would probably be regarded as a pledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 14, 1876.

GENERAL IGNATIEW informs me that the Mussulmans of Bosnia have addressed a telegram to the Emperor of Austria, the transmission of which was stopped by order of the Governor-General.

It expressed their wish to live on terms of harmony with their Christian fellow subjects, in the improvement of whose condition they were ready to co-operate, but it added that if an attempt were made to withdraw the Province from the authority of their Sultan, they would be forced to regard the Christians as their enemies, whom it would be their duty to treat as such.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 14.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 19, 1876.

WITH reference to a report relating to a violation of Austrian territory and the plunder of a village near Novi by some Turkish troops, I have ascertained from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that the Turkish troops crossed the frontier by way of reprisals upon a band of insurgents under the leader Hubmayer, but that, finding Austrian

troops in position beyond the village, they at once retired. The Austrian troops, having captured the insurgent band and its leader Hubmayer, they were disarmed and have been removed to the interior.

Baron Hofmann said that the strictest measures were being taken to prevent sympathizers from crossing the Austrian frontier from either Croatia or Dalmatia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 15.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 22.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February 19, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that General Rodich, who is now here, will in a day or two return to his post.

I have learnt from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that General Rodich has received peremptory instructions from the Emperor to take the most active measures for preventing aid of any kind from reaching the insurgents.

Baron Hofmann earnestly desired me to be informed that, in order to carry out the policy of the six Powers in favour of peace, no effort on the part of Austria would be spared either at Constantinople or in the disturbed provinces. His Excellency said that he thought a favourable amnesty would be issued by the Porte, and that measures were under consideration for facilitating the return of the refugees with the necessary amelioration of their condition and such assistance as they may require for re-establishing themselves in their homesteads.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 16.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, February 22, 1876.*

EMPEROR of Russia's pacific representations, of which Sir H. Elliot got information on the 17th, were made to Prince Milan on that very day by the Russian Consul here, who left next morning for Vienna.

However, this message has not been apparently productive of any result.

No abatement of warlike preparations whatever in the meantime in Servia.

No. 17.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 23, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the encouragement given by the Russian Consulate at Ragusa to the cause of the insurgents in Herzegovina,† and I have to instruct you to mention these statements verbally to Prince Gortchakow as reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government on good authority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 18.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 26, 1876.*

MR. CONSUL FREEMAN has furnished your Excellency with a copy of his despatch of the 3rd instant respecting the choice made by the Porte of officials to

* Repeated to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, Constantinople, and Rome.

† No. 11.

carry out the provisions of the recent Firman in Bosnia, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have read this Report with much dissatisfaction, as, if Mr. Freeman is correctly informed, it shows that the Porte is not acting on the advice of Her Majesty's Government to employ active and trustworthy officers in the execution of the reforms.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 19.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

My Lord *Vienna, February 22, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 16th instant,* I have the honour to inform you that Count Andrassy called upon me before he had received the letter, a copy of which is inclosed herewith, that I addressed to him on the 21st instant, communicating to him a memorandum of the substance of Sir Henry Elliot's despatch of the 30th ultimo, respecting the organized assistance afforded by the Prince of Montenegro to the insurgents in the Herzegovina. I therefore stated to him verbally the nature of the information which had reached Sir Henry Elliot, and he said it was entirely in accordance with the reports he had himself received on the subject. He hoped, however, that the Prince would now be made to understand that such proceedings could not be tolerated, as a remonstrance had been addressed to him by telegraph from St. Petersburgh, and General Rodich is about to proceed to Cettigné to represent to His Highness, on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government, that he could not be permitted to obstruct the measures about to be taken for the pacification of the Turkish provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

P.S.—General Molinari, Governor of Croatia, has also arrived in Vienna, and, as I understand, having had an interview with Count Andrassy, will forthwith return to his post with a full understanding of the policy to be pursued.

A. B.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

Dear Count Andrassy, *Vienna, February 21, 1876.*

AS some days may elapse before I can visit the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, I inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, a Memorandum of the substance of a report which has reached Her Majesty's Government from a trustworthy source, respecting the support afforded to the insurgents in the Herzegovina by the Prince of Montenegro, and with the contents of which Lord Derby wishes me to take an opportunity of acquainting the Austrian-Hungarian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 20.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February 24, 1876.*

THE Turkish Ambassador here informs me that large supplies of grain and a quantity of timber have been forwarded by his Government to Ragusa, with a view to affording assistance to the refugees who may be willing to return to their villages and farms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

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* See note on page 2.

No. 21.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 23.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, February 24, 1876.*

COUNT ANDRASSY, in speaking to me with respect to M. Jonine, the Russian Consul at Ragusa, said that whatever may have been his past conduct and his present sympathies with the insurgents, the instructions under which he will now have to act are entirely satisfactory.

No. 22.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 28.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February 24, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, with reference to your telegram* of yesterday respecting Servia, I sent Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to-day with the inclosed Memorandum to see Baron Hofmann; and, in his absence, Mr. Gastrell held a conversation with Baron Orczy, of which I inclose a report which he has addressed to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Memorandum.

HER Majesty's Government are informed that, although the Russian Consul at Belgrade warned Prince Milan on the 17th instant against the disastrous consequences to which the Principality would be exposed by supporting the insurgents in Bosnia and the Herzegovina in opposition to the declared will of Europe, preparations for war were still being actively carried on on the 22nd instant.

Do the reports received by the Austrian Government confirm the information; and, if it be true, as reported in the newspapers, that all the Mussulmans in Bosnia are being enrolled and armed, and have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness for military service, has this measure been caused by the menacing attitude of Servia?

Has Hubmayer arrived at Agram on his way to Switzerland, or have he and his followers joined Karageorgewitch?

Sir Andrew Buchanan would feel obliged by any information which Baron Hofmann could be good enough to communicate to him on these points.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Vienna, February 24, 1876.*

I HAVE shown your Excellency's Memorandum to Baron Orczy, as Baron Hofmann was not at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

As regards Servia, his Excellency stated that it was true that the Russian Consul had, on the 17th instant, informed Prince Milan that Russia would view with displeasure any hostile movement, and that if Servia acted against the wishes of Europe, it would be at her own risk and peril; and his Excellency added that the Austrian Consul was instructed to give the same advice in similar terms.

Baron Orczy did not believe that the Government of Servia was seriously continuing to make war preparations, but thought that the journals were allowed to flare up a little before the excitement was extinguished, and before the impotency of Servia to make any movement became known. Servia had missed her loan, had been refused guns for want of cash, and had seen her boasted army melt away from want of pay.

As regards the insurgent leader, Hubmayer, Baron Orczy said he had arrived at Agram on his way to Saibech, or Switzerland, probably to communicate with a Committee

* See No. 16.

at Berne, which was in relation with Hubmayer and Karageorgewitch. Hubmayer and his followers had been disarmed, and he was warned away from the frontier.

In Bosnia the levy was that of the second reserve, called out, not as a precaution against Servia, but to fill up the gaps in the Turkish forces reduced by disease and casualties. Perhaps, too, his Excellency added, the Turks wished to show that they have reserve forces and could suppress the insurrection.

Baron Orczy mentioned also that many Italian sympathisers had been sent back from Ragusa and Zara; and that, moreover, the insurgents did not view with favour any such foreigners who made their way to them.

His Excellency also referred to the Turkish commissaries who were to proceed to the Herzegovina, and said that the special instructions to them would be submitted to the Powers, who could then offer counsels, and that the Consuls of all the Powers would act as heretofore between these commissaries and the insurgents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 23.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, February* 29, 1876.

IN a conversation which I had with Count Schouvaloff on the 25th instant, he spoke of the difficulty which the Austrian authorities found in repressing the sympathy shown for the insurgents in the Herzegovina by their own subjects in the immediate vicinity of the frontier.

I thought it right to take the opportunity to mention to Count Schouvaloff what is stated in Sir H. Elliot's despatch of the 14th instant, as to the conduct of the Russian Consul at Ragusa, viz., that he had attended the funeral of one of the insurgent Chiefs, and had hoisted the flag of the Consulate half-mast high on the occasion.

I did not mention the source from which I had derived this information further than saying that I thought it likely to be accurate.

No. 24.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, February* 18, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the insurrectionary movement in this province appears to be on the increase. There have been several collisions lately between the troops and the insurgents, and according to official reports the latter have in every case been repulsed with great loss. I give the following details under the strictest reserve:—

On the 3rd instant a large body of insurgents who infested the country between Novi and Kroupa, in the Sandjak of Bihach, and had repeatedly cut the telegraph wire, were attacked near the village of Ivanska by a force of irregulars. The combat is said to have lasted six hours, with a loss to the insurgents of 150 men. On the side of the Turks there were 22 killed and 20 wounded. This would seem to indicate a severe conflict, as it is rarely the Turks acknowledge so many casualties, and they were probably far in excess of the number stated.

On the 7th instant about 600 insurgents crossed the River Tara and attacked four companies of regular troops stationed in the village of Giurgevich, district of Plevale, Sandjak of Novi-Bazaar. The insurgents were repulsed with the loss of four of their leaders, and retired across the river to the monastery of Dobralovina, whither troops were being sent in pursuit.

A trifling skirmish is also reported to have taken place at Beraja, between Banialuka and Gradiska, but I have reason to believe that it was a very much more serious affair than is represented by the Turks, and that these latter suffered considerable losses. The fact of a battalion of infantry having been dispatched from here in haste to Banialuka would seem to confirm my assertion.

Information has been received here that the insurgent chief Hubmayer and some twenty of his followers have been arrested in Austria and placed in confinement. It is thought that this act, far from discouraging any insurrectionary movement, will rather

have the effect of irritating the frontier population in Austrian Croatia and inciting the insurgents to still greater efforts.

Troops continue to arrive here from time to time by way of Mitrovitza, and after a few days halt are sent on either to the Herzegovina or to the north of Bosnia, but by far the greater number to the Herzegovina, notwithstanding the already large force collected in that province. These troops, who are chiefly Asiatic, seem quite unable to resist the rigours of a Bosnian winter, and there is a lamentable amount of sickness and mortality amongst them. The prevailing diseases are said to be typhus and various pulmonary complaints.

The Imperial Firman of December has now been read in all the chief towns of this province, and I am told that everywhere it has been received with the same indifference as at Serajevo. The promised reforms, if conscientiously executed, would probably a year ago have prevented, or at all events delayed, the present outbreak; but I fear it is now too late, and have little doubt that before many weeks have elapsed the revolt will assume very serious proportions.

I would here venture to remark that one important point seems to have been entirely overlooked. There is no question of disarming the Mussulmans, and yet, as long as a part of the population are permitted to carry arms and the remainder are denied this privilege, there cannot even be a semblance of equality. No doubt it would be a difficult measure to execute at the present moment, but I believe it could be done by a firm Governor-General, backed by a few battalions of picked troops; and at any rate, if the Mussulmans cannot be induced to deliver up their arms, they might be prohibited from carrying them in public. Not even the poorest Mussulman peasant now comes to market without being more or less armed, and the better classes are all armed to the teeth. This might be prohibited, and anyone transgressing the order should instantly have his arms confiscated. The effect of such a measure would be very great, and would be an indication that the Government was in earnest, and would, as events permitted, introduce the other promised reforms.

No. 25.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February 28, 1876.*

COUNT ANDRÁSSY showed me to-day one of the medals which Kara Georgevich is said to have distributed 4,000 of in Bosnia and the Herzegovina. On the one side is the effigy of Kara Georgevich, and on the reverse the words, "Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality."

All Slavs are also called upon to appear at the unfurling of the banner of their emancipation on the plain of Kassowa, where the battle was fought which resulted in the conquest of Servia by the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 26.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3, night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 3, 1876.*

COUNT ZICHY will receive instructions similar to those sent to Sir H. Elliot. I am informed by Count Andrassy that the Prince of Servia, having expressed his reluctance to stop his armaments, on the pretext of the possibility of a change in the Turkish Government, it has been intimated to him that a prohibition will be issued against the export of arms from the Austrian frontier. It is Count Andrassy's intention to suggest to the Russian Government the adoption of a similar measure on the Bessarabian frontier.

No. 27.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, February 21, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a telegram has been received here from the Porte confirming the Imperial Firman of the 12th December, and announcing the following additional reforms and concessions:—

1. Complete religious liberty to the non-Mussulman inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.
2. Government lands to be sold on easy terms, due respect being had for the rights and interests of neighbouring proprietors.
3. Abolition of the system of sale by auction of the tithe on agricultural produce.
4. Increase of supplies for public works.
5. General amnesty and distribution of food to all insurgents who lay down their arms.
6. Formation of a Commission of Control, composed of Mussulman and Christian notables of the province, to watch over the execution of the reforms.

The Porte also announces that Haidar Effendi has been named President of the Commission of Control, and will shortly arrive in Bosnia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDW. B. FREEMAN.

No. 28.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 29, 1876.*

AT an interview I had this day with Prince Gortchakow, I mentioned to his Highness, in conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's despatch of the 16th instant, the statement referred to by Sir Henry Elliot in his despatch of the 30th ultimo, in regard to the system pursued by the Montenegrins in aid of the Herzegovina insurgents.

His Highness replied that the position of the Prince of Montenegro had been not only one of great difficulty, but one of some personal danger. He had abstained from joining the insurgents, but he had not been able to prevent certain of his subjects from enlisting in their cause.

With an extended frontier, with a population wholly sympathising with their co-religionists, and with a warlike race like the Montenegrins, full of military ardour and of hatred to the Turks, it was no easy matter for the Prince of Montenegro to withstand the pressure put on him, even at the risk of his life.

He had, however, succeeded in holding back his subjects, although there may possibly be 300 or 400 who, at their own risk and peril, had joined the insurgents.

His Highness, however, did not admit that the participation of Montenegro had taken place with the cognizance of the Prince of Montenegro, and referred to the counsels and warnings which had been repeatedly given him from St. Petersburgh, and to which he had conformed as far as he had been able to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 29.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 29, 1876.*

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow this day, and, in conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's despatch of the 23rd instant, I brought under his notice verbally the statements contained in Sir Henry Elliot's despatch of the 14th instant, in regard to the encouragement and countenance given to the insurgents by the Russian Consul at Ragusa.

I stated that Her Majesty's Government had received these reports from a reliable source, and that I was instructed by your Lordship to mention them to his Highness, as the facts referred to were calculated to give a false impression of the policy of the Imperial Government in regard to the insurrection.

Prince Gortchakow said that he had already received from Constantinople the information I was instructed to communicate, which had been mentioned by Sir Henry Elliot. He did not deny the facts; but observed that M. Jonine, the Russian Consul, had been most instrumental in preventing the Prince of Montenegro from openly co-operating with the insurgents; that he had strictly and successfully carried out his instructions to warn the Prince of Montenegro of the dangers he would incur by acting against the pacific efforts of the European Powers; that he could not interfere with the feelings of humanity which had led M. Jonine to succour the wounded and pay the last tribute of respect to a deceased friend, nor could he disavow him on account of these sentiments.

I observed to his Highness that, while giving full latitude to the personal opinions and private feelings of M. Jonine, he was still an official servant of the Imperial Government, and that his public acts, if in contravention of the policy of his Government, would naturally give rise to distrust and suspicion.

Prince Gortchacow replied that the policy of the Imperial Government could not be misinterpreted, it was clear and open as noon-day. The most stringent counsels had been given both to the Prince of Servia and Prince of Montenegro, and M. Jonine had rendered great service in exercising a salutary influence on the Prince of Montenegro.

His Highness further remarked that M. Jonine had considerable influence in those parts, which could now be usefully exercised in inducing the insurgents to submit and the refugees to return to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 30.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, February 29, 1876.*

IN reply to my inquiry to-day, M. de Giers stated that he did not believe that any alliance had been contracted between Servia, Montenegro, and Roumania, which implied engagements of a binding nature. There had been "pourparlers" and an exchange of opinions; but he did not think that any positive engagements had been entered into.

With the intimacy existing between Russia and the Prince of Montenegro, it is not likely that any engagements of a political nature would have been taken by the Prince of Montenegro without the knowledge of the Imperial Government.

No. 31.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 29, 1876.*

AT my interview with Prince Gortchakow to-day, I inquired from His Highness how matters were progressing towards the pacification of the Herzegovina.

Prince Gortchakow expressed himself hopefully, although he said nothing of a decided nature had yet taken place. His Highness observed that the Porte had acted wisely, and that the Grand Vizier and Raschid Pasha had shown courage and decision in the part they had taken.

He referred to the visit to Vienna of General Rodich, the Austrian Governor-General of Dalmatia, and considered that his influence on the insurgents and refugees would be most salutary. Of Slavonic origin himself, and known to possess strong sympathies for the population of the Herzegovina, General Rodich was specially fitted for the important task committed to him, and he entertained no doubt that his voice and counsel would have great weight with the insurgents and refugees.

Prince Gortchakow further observed that more stringent measures were being adopted by Austria on her frontiers, which would exercise a considerable moral influence on the adjoining population.

I subsequently had an interview with M. de Giers, who stated that conciliatory influences were now at work, not only on the part of Austria, but also on the part of Ali Pasha, who was endeavouring to gain over the moderate chiefs and partisans of the insurrectionary party, and he hoped with some success.

M. de Giers stated to me most emphatically that under no circumstances would

Russia act alone (his words were "en tête à tête") or separate herself from the other powers in the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 32.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 17, 1876.

I AM informed that the Emperor of Russia yesterday telegraphed in very strong terms to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, urging them to abstain from doing anything calculated to defeat the efforts of the Powers to bring about a pacification in the Herzegovina.

I understand that His Imperial Majesty distinctly warns the Princes that if they act differently they must not expect either the moral support or even the sympathy of Europe to save them from the consequences which they may bring upon themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 33.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 17, 1876.

THE readjustment of the tax for exemption from military service, according to the terms of the Firman of December, is found to be attended with difficulty.

The grievance complained of by the Christains was that the tax was required from all male members of their communities, by children from their birth and old men long past service; and the Firman proclaimed that it should not for the future be enforced upon these two categories.

Unless, therefore, the Government were to abandon a large proportion of the revenue derived from the tax, it became necessary greatly to raise the amount to be paid by each individual of an age to serve.

This they are unwilling, and declare themselves unable, to do.

The Government, on the other hand, represent, unfortunately with too much reason, that they are not in a position which would justify them in making any sacrifice of revenue, but they have referred the question to the different Christian communities, and are disposed to accept any mode which they may indicate as the least onerous for ensuring the collection of the sum hitherto taken.

The discussion of this question has naturally led to that of the expediency of rendering the Christians liable to military service, for which some of them, and especially the Bulgarians, are showing themselves disposed to ask.

They are aware that the conscription would, in many respects, press more heavily upon them than the exemption tax, but they know likewise that no Firmans or regulations will do so much to bring about a real equality between Mussulman and Christian.

The present Ministers are not, I believe, prepared to entertain the proposal if it should be brought forward.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 34.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, February* 18, 1876.

THIS being Friday, the time of the noonday prayer was looked to with interest by the public, for the Sultan having been unable to attend it last week, and being known not to have left his harem in the interval, speculation was rife respecting his condition.

His Majesty, however, appeared, and the alarming rumours have been quieted.

The Ministers of War and of Marine attended the ceremony, as is the custom, and the Sultan afterwards granted them audiences.

No. 35.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 18, 1876.

COUNT ZICHY, by order of his Government, has conveyed to the Porte, for communication to the Sultan, the acknowledgment of the Emperor of Austria for the manner in which His Majesty had received the proposals submitted to his consideration.

He at the same time gave the most satisfactory assurances with regard to the measures which the Austro-Hungarian Government were prepared to take for preventing their subjects from continuing to assist the insurrection.

Efficient steps had already been adopted in respect to the Croatian frontier, and they would at once be applied to that of Dalmatia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 36.

Sir H Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, *Pera, February* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that an amnesty will shortly be published in favour of the insurgents who lay down their arms or return to their homes within a month.

The houses being destroyed, the refugees who had left the country will be assisted in restoring them, and measures are also being concerted for the maintenance of those who are destitute of the means of living.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 37.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, February* 20, 1876.

MR. CONSUL HOLMES has stated that he believes it would be good policy on the part of Turkey to cede to the Prince of Montenegro certain small districts on the frontier, and also the sea port of Spitz.

The districts in question are of no sort of value to Turkey, but rather a cause of embarrassment. They administer their own affairs without interference from the Ottoman authorities, and they not only pay no taxes, but receive some small assistance from the Province to which they nominally belong.

There never were people who had less cause for complaint against their rulers, but they are all numbered among those who are popularly considered as having been driven to desperation by intolerable oppression.

The cession of these districts would certainly be no real loss to Turkey, and the grant of the port of Spitz may also be advocated on many excellent grounds.

No. 38.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, February* 20, 1876.

I HAVE alluded to the suggestion that the recognition by the Prince of Montenegro of the Suzerainty of the Sultan might possibly be obtained if some small districts were granted to the Principality.

Such a recognition would agreeably flatter the pride or vanity of the Turks, who attach an exaggerated importance to the theoretical and unprofitable territorial claims of their Sovereign, but the practical benefit of it is not so certain, although the present undefined position of Montenegro is no doubt eminently unsatisfactory.

Most Governments have abstained from pronouncing an opinion whether the Principality properly owes allegiance to Turkey or not, but Russia frankly asserts its independence, and exerts over it an influence or protectorate which have been in no degree shaken by the attempt of Austria to bid for a share of them.

Nothing could be said against a simple recognition of the Suzerainty of the Sultan, but if the intention is to propose to put the Principality in the same position as the other vassal States, under a guarantee of the six Powers, Her Majesty's Government might not regard it with equal favour.

If the question is seriously brought forward it will call for much consideration, but at present I am inclined to doubt whether it would be advisable for Her Majesty's Government to be a party to an arrangement such as I have alluded to.

No. 39.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, *Pera, February* 22, 1876.

I HAVE given Raschid Pasha an extract from Mr. Acting Consul Freeman's despatch of the 3rd instant, commenting upon some of the late judicial appointments in Bosnia.

Those who are acquainted with this country know that all reforms depend upon the selection of the public functionaries much more than upon the regulations and orders issued by the Porte.

The Grand Vizier, to whom I spoke, excused himself on the plea that all judicial appointments in the provinces were made by the Minister of Justice, without reference to him.

The appointment of one of the individuals has, however, already been cancelled, and further inquiries will be made.

His Highness further complained that more than a month ago the papers respecting the arrangement to be made for the appointment of Christian Caimakams in Bulgaria had been sent to the Minister of Justice, who, up to this time, had done nothing in the matter.

He would now take it into his own hands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 40.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 22, 1876.

HAYDAR EFFENDI and Vassa Effendi have been appointed to proceed respectively to Bosnia and the Herzegovina to superintend the carrying out of the new measures of reform.

The former is a Mussulman of very liberal principles, who was long Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, and the second is a Christian employé of the Porte, well acquainted with the province.

I have had conversations with both these gentlemen, who seem much in earnest in the task they have before them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 41.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 29, 1876.

THE apprehensions of the Christians of an attack upon them by the Mahometans, which were conveyed to your Lordship in the letter of the Church Missionary Society inclosed in your despatch of the 17th ultimo have been general in all parts of the Empire, but have now greatly subsided.

The native Christians were much less alarmed than the foreigners, and at Constantinople it was especially the English who gave way to apprehensions for which I was unable to discover any sufficient justification.

The calling out of the rediffs caused discontent and distress, and, being attributed to the revolt of the Christians in the northern provinces, a decided irritation against the whole community was a not unnatural consequence.

It is impossible ever to feel perfect confidence that there may not be instances in which this irritation may lead to acts of violence, but, as far as I have been able to ascertain, the cause for anxiety is much less than has been represented.

If, however, the insurrection in the Herzegovina should end in a military occupation by foreign Powers, the indignation which it would create among the Mussulman populations would be so great as to render the position of the Christians extremely critical throughout the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 42.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 29, 1876.

THE accounts received from the Herzegovina are of an encouraging nature and calculated to give rise to hopes that the Insurgents are making up their minds to discontinue the contest.

General Rodich, who is understood to have received peremptory injunctions from the Emperor of Austria, is at Cettigné, where the principal insurgent leaders are also collected.

These, according to a report received from Mouktar Pasha, have sent messages to the Mussulman Beys in the Herzegovina, to say that as there was a prospect of pacification, they hoped that they might again live together in harmony.

The arrangements respecting an amnesty and the return of the refugees have been submitted for the approval of the Sultan, and their publication may be expected almost immediately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 43.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 10.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 29, 1876.

SERVER PASHA expresses himself as much satisfied with the assurances which he has received from the Austrian Ambassador of the determination of his Government to do all in their power to discountenance the continuance of the insurrection.

It is considered here that the difficulty of closing the frontier against the insurgents has been greatly exaggerated.

It is thought that as, notwithstanding the nature of the country, the Porte was able effectually to guard the same frontier when the Dalmatians were in insurrection six years ago, an exhibition of a similar good will on the part of Austria will prove equally efficacious.

As no doubt is entertained of the sincerity of the assurances given by the Austrian Government, there are confident hopes that good results will follow.

Not the least important of the measures, which can be adopted as influencing the conduct of Montenegro, will be the closing of the Bocche di Cattaro against the Insurgents, which Raschid Pasha tells me has been promised by the Austrian Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 44.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1876.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that it has come to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Government, through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* that the Porte had received information that a severe fight took place on the Dalmatian frontier on the 4th instant, and that on the following day the combat was renewed by a force said to be 700 strong, who came from Austrian territory with large supplies of ammunition, and that this having occurred so immediately after the assurances of the Austro-Hungarian Government that their frontier should be efficiently guarded has caused great discouragement to the Turkish Government, and that it is feared that the effect of it in Montenegro will be very mischievous, and I have, therefore, to request your Excellency to call the serious attention of the Imperial Government to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 45.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, March* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a small band of armed Servians crossed the Bosnian frontier a few days ago in the neighbourhood of Vishegrad. The strength of the band has been variously stated, but, from the most reliable information I can obtain, I believe it consisted of a very few individuals, whose object was probably to make a reconnaissance in that neighbourhood, and also to ascertain the state of feeling of the Christian population. This band was attacked by the Turks, but offered no resistance, and retired across the frontier with the loss of one its number.

The Austrian Consul-General here informs me that stringent measures are being taken to insure a strict observance of neutrality on the Bosnian and Herzegovinian frontiers, and that the refugees from those provinces have been informed that after the expiration of fifteen days they will no longer receive any assistance either in food or money from the Austrian Government. Small as the sum was, hitherto given them, the withdrawal of such aid will doubtless be the cause of great misery; but yet I fear it will not influence the return of the refugees to their homes. In every direction the insurgents seem to be animated by the same sentiment—a determination to fight to the last rather than again submit to Turkish authority. Active preparations for war have been going on all the winter in Servia, and I was shown to-day a private letter from that Principality stating that it was expected an invasion of Bosnia in force would take place about the second week in March. Of course much depends on the state of the weather; but should it continue as favourable as at the present moment, I think some offensive movement may shortly be expected.

From the Herzegovina I hear that his Excellency Ali Pasha has lately made a tour through the districts of Ljubushki, Gabella, and Stolatz, and that he found the Christian population, which is however chiefly Catholic, well disposed towards the Government. At Dolanje his Excellency gave orders for the immediate reconstruction, at the expense of the Government, of the church and priest's house which was destroyed by the Turks during the early part of the insurrection.

At the present moment, when no public works or improvements of any kind are undertaken in this province, I cannot refrain from mentioning a fact which is highly characteristic of the present temper of the Turks. Orders were received here last week from Constantinople to construct a second minaret to the chief mosque of this town, and the works have been already commenced. It is to be built much higher than the existing one that it may command the Orthodox church and steeple. The execution of this work at the present juncture, when, notwithstanding the proclamation of religious liberty, the Christians are refused the permission so ardently desired to have bells in their churches, cannot be regarded otherwise than as a demonstration of Mussulman fanaticism and superiority. Many people are inclined to think that the matter of church bells is of very little consequence, but I am convinced that the Christians of all classes attach great importance to it, and were a free permission immediately granted to put up bells wherever desired in the

* Received by telegraph, see No. 64.

churches of this province, it would probably do more than any other measure to convince the population that the Porte was this time earnest in its intentions of reform. Ibrahim Pasha refuses to take the initiative in this or in any other matter. The arrival of Haidar Effendi is anxiously awaited; and it is hoped that he will show energy and firmness, and keep himself free from all pernicious local influence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 46.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 8, 1876.

THE accounts which arrive here as to the probability of the reforms of the Porte effecting the pacification of the Herzegovina are very contradictory, and they evidently take their colour from the wishes and hopes of the persons who forward them.

Count Andrassy, however, admitting that the entire suppression of the insurrection and the return of the refugees may be attended with difficulties, continues to speak confidently on the subject, and he said to me recently that possible changes in the Government at Constantinople, through the caprice of the Sultan, were, in his opinion, more likely to prevent the success of the measures in progress for restoring tranquillity in the province than any unwillingness of the insurgents to lay down their arms, or of the refugees to return to it.

There is no doubt, however, that the Representatives of the refugees, with whom General Rodich has been in communication, have declared that, until their fellow-countrymen in arms have accepted the amnesty offered by the Sultan, it will be impossible for them to leave Dalmatia, as they would have to fear ill-treatment, not only from the Mussulmans, but also from the insurgents, who might endeavour to prevent their returning peaceably to their villages. It is hoped here, however, that when the conciliatory measures to be taken by the Turkish authorities are more advanced, these objections will be got over, and the refugees who refuse to return will receive no assistance from the Government after the end of the month.

General Rodich's mission to Cettigné is represented to have been successful, Prince Nicolas having engaged not only to give no encouragement to the insurgents, but also to use his influence with them in favour of peace; and it is therefore believed that the Chiefs of the insurrection will see the hopelessness of continuing hostilities, when they find that supplies and assistance can neither reach them from Dalmatia nor from Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 47.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 13.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 8, 1876.

THE expenditure which has been incurred in Croatia and Dalmatia in supplying food and other necessaries to the Bosnian and Herzegovinian refugees amounts, up to the present date, to about 700,000 florins, and it is believed that, when the Delegations meet at Buda-Pesth next month, they will be asked to provide the funds requisite for covering the outlay.

The question as to whether each section of the Monarchy should meet its own expenditure, or as to whether the assistance given to the refugees should be a charge on the common Budget, may give rise to some discussion, for as Hungary is only liable for 30 per cent. of the common expenses, the respective shares of the two countries may be considerably affected by the decision which may be taken on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

March 9.

P.S.—Since writing the above a Pesth newspaper considers that the expenditure incurred for maintaining the refugees must have exceeded 700,000 florins, as it believes the Hungarian Ministry of Finance alone has advanced 400,000 florins for the purpose.

A. B.

No. 48.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 13.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, March* 9, 1876.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to inform you that I waited this morning on Count Andrassy, and stated to him that I had been instructed to call the serious attention of the Imperial Government to the intelligence received at Constantinople, and reported in Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 8th instant, that a band of 700 men with large supplies of ammunition coming from Austrian territory had taken part in a combat between the Turkish troops and the Herzegovinian insurgents on the 5th instant.

His Excellency said that similar information had been forwarded to him from Constantinople, but as he had received no confirmation of it from Ragusa, he believed it must be exaggerated. There was, however, a body of insurgents under the command of a priest named Musics, near the frontier, and as Ljubibratics is known to have left Ragusa under a false pretext, he may have joined it with a small following, which could not, however, have exceeded 100 men.

The measures which have been already taken and those which were preparing, would, he felt confident, prevent any important assistance in men or supplies reaching the insurgents; and what he considered most important now was that the Turkish authorities should co-operate without delay with those of Austria in endeavouring to establish peace.

For this purpose General Rodich, who had been obliged to leave Ragusa to open the Dalmatian Diet, has been instructed to comply with a suggestion of the Prince of Montenegro, by which his Highness said his own hands would be strengthened, and to proceed to Sutorina and represent to the insurgent chiefs the impolicy of continuing hostilities which must end disastrously to the country, instead of accepting the advantageous terms which have been offered to them by the Porte.

His Excellency said he had every reason to hope that such representations would prove successful when it was made manifest to the insurgents that no assistance could reach them from without; but he felt at the same time that if the Turks carried out an intention which they are alleged to have, of attacking an insurgent camp near Klek, negotiations for peace will probably fail, as the insurgents will represent any conflicts sought by the Turkish troops as proving the insincerity of the offers of the Porte. The Turkish Commanders ought, on the contrary, to endeavour to avoid conflicts, and by acting in large masses, and keeping between the insurgents and Montenegro, to push them quietly towards the Dalmatian frontier, on crossing which they would be disarmed and removed to the interior, from whence they could eventually be sent to their homes with the refugees.

His Excellency then expressed regret at the delay which has occurred in the arrival of the Commissioners, and he said he feared Mouktar Pacha, who is desirous of military successes, may be unwilling to support the pacific mission confided to them, but what he considers would be most fatal to the efforts which are being made to effect the pacification of the insurgent provinces, would be a change of Ministers at Constantinople, as the Christians would be induced by their Chiefs to see in such an eventuality a proof that the policy of the Government had changed.

His Excellency said he had therefore authorized Count Zichy either to seek an audience of the Sultan, or, if the Turkish Ministers thought it more expedient, to communicate indirectly with His Majesty, to represent to him that the Emperor of Austria is most desirous of seeing an insurrection suppressed which is almost as detrimental to the interests of Austria as to those of Turkey; and that already with a view to this object he had not only succeeded in preventing the conclusion of an offensive alliance against Turkey between Servia and Montenegro, but had received a positive engagement from Prince Nicholas to use his influence with the insurgents to induce them to return to their allegiance on the terms offered by the Porte; that the Emperor had further taken measures to prevent the insurrection receiving assistance from his own territories, and, while he was representing to the insurgent Chiefs the folly of attempting to carry on hostilities in opposition to the will of Europe, he was endeavouring to induce the refugees to return to their homes. That His Imperial Majesty felt, however, that to insure the success of his efforts in favour of peace it was absolutely necessary that he should be able to convince the insurgents of the benevolent and conciliatory sentiments with which the Sultan is ready to pardon their revolt, and he might find it impossible to do so, if a change of Ministers at Constantinople should enable the promoters of the insurrection to persuade

the ignorant peasantry that the Sultan had repented of the concessions which he had promised to them, and had dismissed the Ministers by whom they had been recommended.

His Excellency said some action of this kind was, he believed, the more necessary as the Sultan was not only displeased with his present Ministers, in consequence of their inability to provide funds to meet his exorbitant requirements, but because Server Pasha is said to have assured him that the insurrection was entirely suppressed before he left the Herzegovina, and that all reports to the contrary must be false.

No. 49.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 14.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 17, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Sir Henry Elliot, on the influence exercised on Servian proceedings by the acts and designs of the Prince of Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, February* 17, 1876.

EVER since the commencement of the present disturbances in the Herzegovina it has been apparent that the conduct of the Prince of Montenegro has been exercising an influence on the attitude of Servia, and his example has been constantly used as a reproach to Prince Milan in the Slav newspapers published in the Hungarian dominions, and even by violent partizans of the "Omladina" in this Principality.

The connection of that Prince with the origin and duration of the present insurrection is generally believed here, and invoked as a title to popular favour amongst Slavs.

There are some circumstances in which that Prince has been particularly fortunate, and which contribute to invest him with a peculiar reputation of success in the national cause.

He is said to have secured a loan, whilst Servia, with superior resources, has hitherto failed in contracting one; he appears to have escaped the admonitions of either Russia or Austria for his conduct, whilst Servia received a solemn warning from the Great Powers last October; more than that, the Imperial Court of Russia has given Prince Nicholas several indications of its sympathy, whilst Prince Milan has had none bestowed upon him since Count Soumorokoff's mission here at his marriage, and even the customary presents granted by the Czar on those occasions have been hitherto withheld.

Somehow or other an idea has got abroad that sooner or later the Prince of Montenegro would derive actual benefit, in the shape of an accession of territory, concurrently with the termination of the insurrection.

This supposition, though, as far as I can see, resting upon no basis, acts as a stimulant on the excitable politicians of Belgrade, and having been recently repeated, as if approaching realization, produced an unusual sensation here, by giving the war party a most welcome and convenient argument.

I felt it my duty to inform your Excellency of this mischievous report on the 10th instant, at 7 A.M., by telegraph, and received a contradiction of it in reply on the 14th instant.

In the meantime the Prince of Montenegro considered it his interest to send one likewise to Prince Milan, and I see from the "Times" newspaper, of the 12th instant, that he has thought it worth his while to get a similar denial published in a telegram, dated Cettigné, February 11, disclaiming at the same time "any discouragement by his Government of the insurrection."

The despatch of a new special Envoy from here to Cettigné had been intended for some weeks previously, and Colonel Ranho Olympitch was at once sent off in that capacity, with instructions at the same time to transmit here regular information as to the conditions and plans of the insurgent forces.

It is evident, therefore, that an approaching pacification is not anticipated here, and that Servia may be induced in the long run to participate in the struggle, unless the

pacification of the Herzegovina is more prompt and easy than the people here are disposed or willing to believe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 50.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 14.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Sir Henry Elliot on the subject of the military preparations going on in Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, February* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following particulars with regard to the armaments which are prosecuted with some vigour at this moment in this Principality.

As regards the militia, fresh lists are being drawn up, both of the 1st and 2nd class of these bodies, and the men belonging to either have been instructed to remain within reach of their respective battalions from the $\frac{25\text{th February}}{7\text{th March}}$ next, so that they may be embodied at the shortest notice.

A reserve list is being drawn up of all able-bodied men from 20 to 50, who from some cause or other have been excused hitherto from enrolment in either class of militia.

The totals of both classes of militia are estimated here at 140,000 men, but I presume that their actual strength in the field would not exceed 100,000.

The regular troops of all arms amount only to 4,700 men.

The number of commissioned officers is only 300; thirty more have received commissions within the last few days. A staff is being organized, and a list of 3,000 non-commissioned officers has been prepared.

It has been determined to purchase 4,000 horses, but as yet only 800 have been bought in Transylvania.

It is contemplated to contract for the making of 80,000 new uniforms; in the meantime shirts, boots, cartridges, and a variety of war material are being provided, and I hear that 4,000 revolvers have been contracted for.

Nothing has been done as yet either as regards commissariat or ambulances.

With regard to arms, this Government has been for some time deliberating whether to purchase old Sniders in England or French Chassepots in Prussia. The latter have been offered as low as 1*l.* per rifle with 400 cartridges by a German firm. But the idea of contracting for either kind has been given up for the present, whilst the plan of purchasing 40 rifled ordnance, which was much spoken of, has, it appears, been definitively abandoned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 51.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 14.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 28, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by me on the 25th instant to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting the reasons assigned for the quasi-martial attitude of the Prince of Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Belgrade, February* 25, 1876.

I BEG to assure your Excellency that I have been assured from a source, which I have hitherto found reliable, that the chief reason which has prompted Prince Milan to assume a bolder and quasi-martial attitude is the growing suspicion in his mind that a bait, in the shape of an accession of territory, was about to be offered by Austria, on behalf of the Porte, to the Prince of Montenegro.

This opinion is strongly entertained here by persons who are supposed to be well acquainted with the nature of the relations which have existed during the last two years between the Court of Vienna and that Prince.

It is admitted that probably Prince Nicholas would be content with a secret promise to that effect just now, and would be willing to wait for its realization until such time as the insurrection has been completely subdued.

No. 52.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 28, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed by me on the 26th instant, reporting representations made by Prince Wrede, the Austrian Agent and Consul-General to the Prince of Servia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, February* 26, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Colonel Prince Wrede, the Austro-Hungarian Representative here, having returned from Vienna the day before yesterday, had an audience of the Prince of Servia yesterday, at which I understand that he acquitted himself of the instructions of Count Andrassy by inquiring the reason for the armaments which are at present going on here with activity.

My Austrian colleague further laid great stress on the perfect agreement existing at present in the views of his own Cabinet and that of St. Petersburgh, on their determination to effect promptly the pacification of the insurgent districts, and on the assurances given by the Prince of Montenegro to co-operate in the process of pacification.

The Prince of Servia appears to have admitted the military preparations going on here, denying at the same time anything like an aggressive purpose, and justifying them by the possibility of future complications, even should the present ones be overcome, which was, he thought, by no means so certain.

His Highness is reported further to have observed the discrepancy between the present language of Austria and that held by Count Andrassy to himself at Vienna in August last, with regard to the Prince of Montenegro, when the Count completely exculpated that Prince from the suspicion of actively favouring the insurrection, whilst at present his withdrawal from all further support of it is chiefly depended upon—in combination with Austria's severe measures within her own borders, recently initiated—as perfectly sufficient and reliable means to insure the termination of the insurrection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 53.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, March 1, 1876.*

I HAVE been informed that M. de Kerjégu, the French Acting Consul-General here, had an audience of the Prince of Servia yesterday, for the purpose of representing to His Highness, on behalf of the French Government, the necessity of his discontinuing the military preparations now going on here.

I presume that the official language of His Highness must have been similar to that held by him to Prince Wrede.

It is impossible to imagine that he can be mistaken or ignorant as regards the pacific intentions of the Great Powers, and therefore any official remonstrances made here, whether singly or collectively, would appear superfluous at this moment.

Facts will be the best arguments, and the cessation of the insurrection would convey, if brought about, an incontestable proof of the inutility of all calculations based upon its strength. If, however, its termination were delayed too long, the constant repetition of the same warnings addressed to Servia is only productive of irritation.

No. 54.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March 12, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation by Mr. Milbanke of a telegraphic précis published this morning in the Vienna newspapers of an answer given yesterday by M. Tisza in the Hungarian Diet, to a question put to him some days ago, as to whether the Government of Hungary had been a party to Count Andrassy's note of the 30th of December last, and as to what would be the attitude of Hungary in the event of the measures for pacifying the Turkish provinces proving abortive, and of Servia intervening.

M. Tisza said he considered it improbable that Servia would place herself in opposition to the interests of Europe, but that in such an eventuality, the decision of the Monarchy would be guided by those interests.

With respect to the return of the refugees, he said the Government could not be reproached with inhumanity if it withheld further assistance from them; now they could not only return with safety, but would be assisted in rebuilding their houses.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Speech by Minister President Tisza in the Hungarian Diet, March 11, 1876.

(Translation.)

MINISTER-PRESIDENT TISZA, in answering the interpellation of the Deputy Polit, said that he would not go into all the details of the speech that accompanied it, but would merely make a few remarks. Deputy Polit spoke of the ungrounded antipathy of Hungary for Servia, but such an antipathy does not exist. He spoke of Hungarian officials wandering about as vagrants on the frontier, but the Minister begs to repudiate any such expression with reference to Hungarian citizens, and particularly Hungarian officials (great applause). Deputy Polit need have no fear, for the Minister knows that the Servian and frontier populations are not to be judged according to the single instances that are brought to our notice; but even were this the case, Hungary would not be afraid.

Referring to the interpellation itself, the Minister answers the question as to whether he had been a party to Count Andrassy's note of December, in the affirmative—not, however, as regards the drawing up of the terms of the note, which must be regulated by the foreign policy of the Government.

In answer to the question, as to whether the Hungarian Government approve of the intervention, Minister Tisza replies that there is no question of intervention, but only of good advice, which had been given in concert with the European Powers, and which had been accepted in a most friendly manner by the Porte. This action was required in the

interests of European peace, and can only be heartily approved of by the Hungarian Government.

In answer to the question, as to what the action of Hungary would be in the event of the pacification not being effected, and of the intervention of Servia, the Minister replied that such an eventuality was most improbable, and that it was not to be supposed that the heads of the Servian Government would bring their country into opposition to the interests of Europe. Should, however, such an eventuality occur, the policy of the Empire would be guided by those interests. Still, the Minister feels assured that, just as those persons are mistaken who hoped to create disunion between the European Powers in consequence of the note, so also are those deceived who hope to make Servia the means of such disunion.

With reference to the question as to the return of the refugees, M. Tisza replied that no particular declaration was necessary, but that the Empire has not disregarded the interests of humanity is shown by the subvention, amounting to nearly 1,000,000 florins, which has been already given to them. It is only natural, that as soon as the refugees are enabled to return home, and are even assisted in the rebuilding of their houses, and in the cultivation of their fields, all reason for any subvention from us ceases, and the refugees would themselves prefer returning home. Whoever prevents them from doing so would be acting contrary to their interests.

The speaker concluded by expressing a hope that the House would accept his explanation.

No. 55.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, in translation by Mr. Milbanke, a newspaper telegram relating the circumstances under which Ljubibratics was arrested, with some of his companions.

I shall not fail to take an opportunity of asking Count Andrassy whether this account is accurate, and, if so, why the rest of the band was allowed to return to the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Newspaper Telegram.

(Translation.) *Ragusa, March* 12, 1876.

THE day before yesterday, early in the morning, Ljubibratics and his troop took up their quarters at Veniani, which, according to the map, is in Herzegovinian territory. At noon, however, the captain of the district, Daucha, appeared, with a company of infantry under the command of Captain Filouss, and informed Ljubibratics that he had crossed the frontier.

Ljubibratics denied that he had crossed the border, and produced the Austrian Staff Officer, Rosskiewic's, military map to support his assertion, but gave orders to his troops to withdraw.

The troops were just engaged in eating their dinner, and Captain Filouss begged Ljubibratics and his staff to finish their dinner where they were. This kind offer was accepted with thanks both by himself and his Aide-de-camp, Petrovic.

But after dinner, as he was on the point of joining the troops with his companions, Captain Filouss sent an officer to beg him to spend the night at Imoski. This, however, Ljubibratics declined with thanks; and he was then informed that he and his companions were prisoners.

The prisoners were conveyed at night, under an escort of infantry, to Imoski, where they were secured in the barracks of the gendarmerie, and the following morning they were sent to Sigu.

Ilkacsic, a native of Nevesinje, and one of the bravest of the insurgent chiefs, took the command of the troops in the place of Ljubibratics.

In addition to Ljubibratics, the following volunteers were also made prisoners :—Conte Faella, Mdlle. Jeanne Merkus, and four others.

No. 56.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency having called the attention of the Porte to the late judicial appointments in Bosnia, as reported in your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, and I have to instruct you to take an opportunity of stating that apathy shewn in such matters cannot fail to have disastrous results if allowed to continue.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 57.

Mr. Monson to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, March 19.)

(Extract) *Ragusa, March* 11, 1876.

EVERYONE with whom I have conversed here, of whichever side he may be the partisan, agrees on one point, viz.: that it is quite impossible for the Austrian Government to prevent the insurgents from receiving through Austrian territory sufficient supplies of munitions of war. I am assured from several sources that armed insurgents have openly moved about the neighbourhood of this town without any interference on the part of the military. The insurgent chiefs come and go as they please, and hold their meetings openly at a café in front of my hotel. Ammunition is passed across the narrow strip of Austrian territory without hindrance. According to the Turkish Consul-General, twenty cases of cartridges were thus passed only the other day; and Mr. —— boasts, in my hearing, that artillery can be landed anywhere on the Dalmatian coast, and be transported across the frontier for the use of the insurgents with the greatest ease.

General Iovanovic stated to me on the 8th instant that it was no use trying to persuade the refugees to return home, as they said that they had no homes to return to, and would certainly starve if they attempted anything of the kind. Koetset Effendi, Ali Pasha's Secretary, who was present at the moment, observed that the Turkish authorities would provide food, seed corn for the cultivation of the land; would protect the refugees from molestation, assist them in rebuilding their houses, which in general only required roofing, &c.; but the General said that such arguments were unavailing, that the refugees declared that the country was a desert, that their cattle were gone, that consequently they could not till the land, and that even if they could till it, there could be no crops till next year; in short, that there was no persuading them.

No. 58.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 14, 1876.

THE Russian papers of this morning report the arrest of Ljubibratich (as reported in Sir Andrew Buchanan's telegram of the 11th instant), but they state that it took place in Turkish and not in Austrian territory.

Prince Gortchakow stated to me to-day that he had received this information, but not from any official source. His Highness said that he had received no fresh official information on the negotiations now carrying on in the Herzegovina and Montenegro, and that he gave no credence to the newspaper telegrams and reports which were always grossly exaggerated—when even not pure inventions—so much so that he was constantly putting to himself the question "qui est-ce qu'on trompe?"

Prince Gortchakow said that he was neither a "pessimist" nor an "optimist." He considered it of the first importance that the Porte should hasten to carry into effect the reforms and measures it had announced. Facts would do more than promises, and the measures to encourage and the means to enable the refugees to return to their homes should be applied without stint and without delay.

In reply to my inquiry as to the position of Mahmoud Pasha, his Highness stated that it had considerably improved, and that he had in some measure regained his influence. On my mentioning the possibility of Hussein Avni displacing Mahmoud, Prince Gortchakow remarked that his accession to power would be a calamity. It would be war and the complete revocation of the moderate and conciliatory policy pursued by Mahmoud under the influence of the European Powers.

His Highness appeared, however, to be quite reassured as to the position of Mahmoud. and to be under no apprehension of his retirement from office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 59.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 20.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 15, 1876.

M. DE GIERS told me this morning that satisfactory intelligence had been received yesterday from Servia, and that the Prince had given tranquillizing assurances to the Russian Agent at Belgrade.

He stated that Prince Gortchakow was still hopeful of a good result to the pacificatory influences now in action; but he observed that the telegrams received were of such a contradictory nature that it was impossible to form any correct judgment as to the future.

We must await, his Excellency said, the final result of General Rodich's mission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 60.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Pera, March* 1, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note from Raschid Pasha which has been sent to the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers, communicating to them the measures that have been decided upon by the Porte for facilitating the return of the refugees from the insurgent districts who are at present in Servia, Austria, and Montenegro.

Special functionaries had been delegated to protect them from violence and oppression.

The local authorities had been directed to give them pecuniary relief, and to afford the necessary facilities for the restoration of their houses and churches, as well as the means of cultivating the land.

The tithe is remitted for a year, and the "impôt" for two years; this vague expression including, I am told, the tax for military exemption, and some others.

The Austrian-Hungarian Government have been invited to make these arrangements known to the refugees at present within the Emperor's dominions.

That Government formerly represented the number who had entered their territory to exceed 100,000, but I understand this to be now ascertained to have been a great exaggeration, and the number now actually in Austria does not probably reach 35,000.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Raschid Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 29 *Février*, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que les dispositions suivantes relatives au retour dans leurs foyers des familles qui de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine ont emigré sur le territoire Austro-Hongrois, en Serbie et au Monténégro, viennent d'être arrêtées.

La Sublime Porte s'inspirant de ses sentiments de beinveillance envers ces familles dont la situation fait l'objet de toute sa sollicitude, a décidé, pour leur assurer avant tout une

entière protection, de déléguer des fonctionnaires ayant pour mandat de veiller à ce qu'elles soient à l'abri de toute violence et de tout arbitraire. Elle a donné aux autorités locales l'ordre de leur fournir des subsides, toutes les facilités nécessaires pour la reconstruction de leurs maisons et de leurs églises et de procurer aux cultivateurs les moyens qui leur seront indispensables pour reprendre leurs travaux. Enfin elle a décidé de faire aux populations des localités éprouvées remise de la dîme pour la présente année et de l'impôt pour deux ans.

En informant votre Excellence que j'ai prié le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique de porter à la connaissance de ces familles qui se trouvent en Autriche-Hongrie les nouvelles faveurs dont elles sont l'objet de la part du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) RASCHID.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, February* 29, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the following arrangements relating to the return to their homes of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian families who have emigrated into Austro-Hungarian territory, Servia, and Montenegro, have just been decided upon.

The Sublime Porte, inspired by its kindly feelings towards those families whose position renders them the object of all its care, has decided, in order to secure to them, in the first place, a complete protection, to appoint officials whose duty it will be to take care that they are protected from all violence and arbitrary proceedings. Orders have been given to the local authorities to furnish them with help in money, with all necessary facilities for the rebuilding of their houses and churches, and to procure for the cultivators of the fields the means indispensable for the resumption of their work. Lastly, the Porte has decided to remit to the population of the localities in question the tithes for the current year and the taxes for two years.

While informing your Excellency that I have requested the Government of His Imperial and Royal Apostolic Majesty to acquaint those families who may be in Austria or Hungary with the new favours granted to them by the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, I take, &c.

(Signed) RASCHID.

No. 61.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, March* 2, 1876.

COUNT ZICHY expressed to me to-day the great satisfaction which he had had in being able to converse fully on subjects connected with the insurrection with Mr. Holmes, with whom he had had conversations of the highest interest.

No. 62.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 4, 1876.

WASSA EFFENDI, who is appointed to superintend the reforms to be inaugurated in the Herzegovina, and especially to provide for the return of the refugees, left Constantinople yesterday.

I was not previously acquainted with him, but, as far as I am able to judge, he appears to be a man of energy, and in earnest in the duty confided to him.

He is an Albanian by birth, a Roman Catholic by religion, and was, I believe, formerly a follower of Garibaldi.

The task that he has before him is an arduous one, and one of his first difficulties is likely to be in getting sufficient funds placed at his disposal for the relief of the destitute people he is to watch over.

I asked him also what power he would have of executing prompt and summary punishment in the case of outrages against the refugees, and I cannot say that his answer is satisfactory.

There will be three different authorities in the provinces, all more or less independent, between whom some jealousy is pretty sure to arise; and I cannot find that any of them possesses the power of carrying out a summary capital punishment.

In this country, as in England, a soldier who murders a civilian is handed over for trial to the civil authority, which cannot carry out a capital sentence till it is confirmed from Constantinople, and the benefit of a prompt example, which is so essential in a state of things like the present, is thereby lost.

It is not to be expected that acts of violence will not be perpetrated against the refugees; for in addition to the fanatical feelings by which the Mussulmans may be animated, many of them must entertain a thirst for revenge for wives and children murdered, and for property carried off by those who are about to return, and it will require a firm hand and a resolute repression to keep them in check.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 63.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 7, 1876.

I HAVE read to Raschid Pasha what Mr. Acting Consul Freeman says in his despatch of the 18th ultimo, of the necessity of not allowing the Mussulman population of Bosnia to go about with arms, while the Christians are not permitted to carry them.

Raschid Pasha considers that there might be much difficulty if it was proposed to make the Mussulmans give up their arms; but neither they nor the Christians should be allowed to come armed to the towns and bazaars.

The matter shall not, he says, be lost sight of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 64.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 8, 1876.

THE Porte is much discouraged by the news just received from the Herzegovina.

Perfect confidence had been placed in the assurances received from the Austro-Hungarian Government that the Dalmatian frontier should be efficiently guarded, and that the insurgents should no longer receive from that quarter the assistance which had hitherto enabled them to maintain the struggle.

Information has now been received at the Porte that on Saturday last there was a severe engagement near the Dalmatian frontier, which was renewed the following day by a body consisting, it is asserted, of 700 men, who passed from the Austrian territory accompanied by ample supplies of ammunition.

It will probably turn out that there has been much exaggeration of their numbers, but it is feared that an occurrence such as this will have a bad effect in Montenegro, and indispose the Prince to listen to the advice which had been sent to him from St. Petersburgh and Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 65.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the instructions which have been issued by the Porte for the guidance of the Governors-General of the different Provinces of the Empire.

These instructions, if perfectly adhered to or enforced, appear calculated to remedy

much of what is now complained of in the provincial administration, but till I see greater discrimination shown in the selection of the Governors-General, and an abandonment of the system of changing them every two or three months, I shall not expect much benefit from them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Instructions relatives à l'Administration Générale des Vilayets.

Chapitre I.—*Devoirs des Valis.*

(Traduction.)

Article 1. L'Empire est divisé en provinces appelées Vilayets. L'administration de chaque vilayet est confiée à un Vali ou Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 2. Tous les sujets Ottomans, à quelque classe qu'ils appartiennent, sont, sans exception, égaux devant la loi. La sauvegarde des droits de chacun constituant l'unique but de l'institution des Etats, le premier et le plus impérieux devoir des valis est d'assurer et de garantir les droits de tous les sujets Ottomans collectivement ou individuellement, et de les mettre à l'abri de l'arbitraire et des vexations.

Art. 3. Les valis sont libres dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions, mais ils sont en même temps directement responsables vis-à-vis du Gouvernement de l'exécution de leur mandat.

Art. 4. Les devoirs des valis sont, en conformité des présentes instructions, divisés en deux catégories :

1. L'exécution des réformes ;
2. L'exercice de leurs fonctions dans les limites de leurs attributions.

Art. 5. Les devoirs incombant aux valis, en ce qui concerne l'exécution des réformes, consistent dans la mise en pratique pleine et entière des mesures arrêtées, en conformité du Firman Impérial récemment promulgué. Leurs attributions, proprement dites, consistent à veiller au maintien et au développement régulier des réformes une fois qu'elles auront été appliquées, ainsi qu'à l'administration générale dans un sens conforme aux intérêts de l'Etat et du pays.

Chapitre II.—*Devoirs des Valis. Exécution des Réformes.*

Art. 6. Les devoirs relatifs à l'exécution des réformes comprennent :

(*a.*) Le nouveau mode d'élection de membres et de constitution des Tribunaux et des Conseils.

(*b.*) Le mode de classification et d'élection des agents de police, des percepteurs, des huissiers, du personnel de service des Conseils et des Tribunaux, ainsi que des gardiens ;

(*c.*) L'organisation et l'administration des prisons ;

(*d.*) L'amélioration des formalités relatives à la confection et à la délivrance des titres de propriété et la stricte observation de lois dans le transfert des propriétés foncières ;

(*e.*) La modification de la taxe d'exonération du service militaire et sa perception d'après un mode de répartition proportionnelle ;

(*f.*) L'application du système de prestations pour la construction des routes et autres, d'une manière équitable ;

(*g.*) Le progrès et le développement de l'agriculture ; la surveillance du bon emploi et de la régularité dans la comptabilité des fonds des Caisses Agricoles instituées dans ce but ;

(*h.*) La fixation de l'assiette de l'impôt ; la désignation des sources des contributions locales et l'adoption de moyens propres à en assurer la perception.

Art. 7. Le point le plus important de la formation des Conseils et des Tribunaux, cette partie essentielle des réformes, consiste dans le libre exercice de la faculté pour l'élection accordée a toutes les classes de la population, et qui doit s'exercer à l'abri de toute ingérence ; ainsi les Valis doivent :—

(*a.*) Veiller à ce que le choix tant des électeurs envoyés par les villages que des éligibles désignés par eux s'effectue en dehors de toute influence des fonctionnaires du Gouvernement ou des notables du pays ;

(*b.*) Traduire immédiatement en justice, pour être punis d'après la loi, tout individu, quel qu'il soit, qui, par un sentiment d'animosité personnelle contre un des éligibles aura cherché à intimider les électeurs, soit ouvertement soit en secret, afin d'empêcher l'élection ou d'annuler le vote ;

(*c.*) Choisir sur la liste des membres élus par la population en nombre double de celui

qui serait nécessaire, suivant les instructions spéciales, les personnes qui jouissent le plus de la confiance publique.

Les Valis doivent veiller en personne à la rigoureuse application du mode d'élection ci-dessus indiqué, et tenir la main à ce que les Mutessarifs et les Caïmacams s'y conforment également.

Art. 8. Dans la composition des corps d'agents de police et de percepteurs, ainsi que dans le choix du personnel de service et des gardiens, on sera tenu de se conformer aux instructions spéciales dont il est fait mention dans l'Article relatif à l'exécution des réformes.

Les attributions de ces agents font en quelque sorte partie de celle des Valis, ces derniers personnifiant le Pouvoir Exécutif, et les agents en question étant des intermédiaires pour l'exécution. Les Valis sont donc tenus de veiller à ce que ces agents s'acquittent des obligations qui leur incombent dans les limites des instructions spéciales.

Art. 9. Dans le choix des agents de police ou autres, on devra écarter avec le plus grand soin les individus ayant une mauvaise conduite, et ne prendre que des personnes honorables et dignes de confiance appartenant à n'importe quelle classe de la population.

Les Valis doivent prescrire formellement à qui de droit d'apporter la plus grande attention à ce que le choix de ces agents se fasse exactement dans les conditions ci-dessus. Ils seront responsables, dans le cas où les personnes, ainsi choisies, venant à commettre des actes répréhensibles et contraires aux instructions spéciales, ils apportaient de la négligence à les envoyer devant les Tribunaux.

Art. 10. L'organisation et l'administration des prisons ont un double but. Le premier, c'est d'éviter que les personnes qui subissent un interrogatoire soient détenues avec celles condamnées à des peines édictées par la loi ; le second de faire en sorte, que personne ne soit retenu inutilement et sans jugement en prison.

La haute surveillance des prisons est confiée aux Valis dans les vilayets, aux Mutessarifs dans les sandjaks, et aux Caïmacams dans les cazas. Un greffier nommé par l'autorité et qui est en même temps directeur de la prison, sera chargé d'enregistrer les noms des détenus et de dresser des rapports.

Art. 11. Les Valis prendront, avant tout, les dispositions nécessaires pour constituer les Conseils dans la forme recommandée. Ils désigneront les directeurs et les gardiens des prisons. Ils établiront ensuite, dans le chef-lieu des vilayets et des sandjaks, un Comité d'enquête préliminaire composé d'un Président et de deux membres, Musulmans et non-Musulmans.

Art. 12. Ces Comités auront pour mandat de s'enquérir des causes qui ont motivé l'arrestation, par les zaptiés, des prévenus et d'ordonner qu'ils soient emprisonnés et interrogés, dans le cas où l'acte qui leur est attribué serait de nature à entraîner des pénalités édictées par la loi ; de faire mettre immédiatement en liberté, sous caution, ceux dont la conduite ne motiverait pas l'application de la loi ; de veiller à ce que personne ne soit retenu sans nécessité en prison.

Les Comités dresseront journellement, et remettront aux valis, des rapports indiquant ceux parmi les individus amenés à la police, qui ont été mis en liberté, et ceux qui ont été maintenus en état d'arrestation.

Art. 13. Tous les sujets Ottomans pourront indistinctement acquérir des terres appartenant aux particuliers, cédées par voie de transfert, ou à l'Etat comme "mahlul" (déshérence), vendues par voie d'adjudication, ou bien enfin des terres qui seraient libres.

Art. 14. Des instructions spéciales seront élaborées concernant le mode de confection et de délivrance des titres de propriété, le principe et la perception de la taxe d'exonération du service militaire, la construction des routes et autres travaux d'utilité publique, le progrès et le développement de l'agriculture, l'administration des caisses agricoles et enfin l'amélioration de l'assiette de l'impôt et des sources des contributions locales. Ces instructions seront des plus explicites touchant les attributions relatives à ces matières des valis qui seront tenus de s'y conformer strictement.

Les valis sont autorisés à exécuter toutes les mesures visées par des instructions spéciales et ils demeurent personnellement responsables tant de leur non-exécution que des abus qui pourraient se produire.

Chapitre III.—*Devoirs généraux des Valis ou leurs attributions proprement dites.*

Art. 15. Les devoirs des valis sont, ainsi qu'il a été spécifié dans le Chapitre I, d'assurer le maintien et le développement régulier des réformes qui auront reçu leur application.

Art. 16. Les devoirs indiqués dans le présent chapitre constituent la mission des Valis ; ils sont tenus de veiller constamment à ce que les fonctionnaires, dans les diverses branches de l'administration du vilayet, remplissent, de leur côté, les obligations qui leur incombent. Ils sont par conséquent autorisés à relever de leurs fonctions ceux des

employés placés directement sous leurs ordres qui négligeraient leurs devoirs ou commettraient des actes illégaux ou contraires aux instructions les concernant. Toutefois, cette destitution ne pourra avoir lieu qu'après une enquête préalable et un jugement qui serait conforme aux circonstances et aux règlements spéciaux. Pour les employés dont le renvoi n'exige pas l'autorisation de la Sublime Porte, les valis sont tenus de lui soumettre les causes ayant motivé la destitution. Quant à ceux qui ne peuvent être relevés de leurs fonctions que directement par la Sublime Porte, les valis devront faire connaître préalablement à Constantinople les circonstances qui motivent et justifient leur destitution. Dans le cas où des employés ne relèvant pas directement des Valis, mais d'un Ministère ou d'une Administration quelconque, commettraient des actes répréhensibles, les Valis en informeront le Ministère ou l'Administration dont dépendent ces employés.

Toute négligence de la part des Valis, dans la surveillance qu'ils doivent exercer sur les actes des employés subordonnés, entraînera leur responsabilité. Les fonctionnaires placés directement sous les ordres des Valis et agissant d'après leurs instructions, sont également responsables dans les limites de leurs attributions spéciales.

Art. 17. Les Valis sont autorisés à prendre toutes les mesures de police qu'ils jugeront nécessaires. Toutefois, en cas d'incidents extraordinaires pouvant troubler l'ordre public, ils doivent, tout en procédant à ce que de droit, pour en découvrir les causes, en référer à la Sublime Porte. De même, en pareil cas, les Mutessarifs demanderont des instructions aux valis et tout en prenant les dispositions dictées par les circonstances, ils pourront porter les faits à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte, suivant les exigences de la localité et de l'affaire.

Art. 18. Il est expressément défendu aux valis d'employer pour leur service personnel les agents et les officiers de police, à quelque titre et sous quelque prétexte que ce soit. Cette défense s'étend également aux Mutessarifs, aux Caïmacams et aux autres fonctionnaires de l'Etat.

Art. 19. Toutes les fois que les agents de police, les percepteurs ou les huissiers se feraient donner dans les villages, gratuitement, des vivres et des fourrages, les habitants sont autorisés à adresser immédiatement leurs plaintes à l'autorité et les valis sont tenus de veiller toujours à ce que de pareils faits ne se produisent pas et à ce que les contrevenants soient punis d'après la loi.

Art. 20. Il est rigoureusement défendu de se procurer, au moyen d'abus ou de vexations, des bêtes de somme nécessaires au transport d'une localité à l'autre, des effets militaires et des munitions.

Art. 21. Les valis doivent inspecter continuellement les prisons, s'enquérir de la situation et de l'hygiène des prisonniers ; veiller à ce qu'ils aient une occupation, à ce que ceux d'entr'eux qui ont purgé leur condamation soient immédiatement mis en liberté, et enfin à ce que personne ne soit retenue longtemps en prison sans jugement. Si les procès des individus préventivement détenus traînent en longueur, devant les tribunaux qui en sont saisis, les valis devront faire accélérer l'instruction et mettre à exécution les jugements rendus.

Art. 22. Les Valis se serviront des Présidents des Tribunaux Civils pour la surveillance des prisons et pour la constatation de la situation des détenus.

Art. 23. Les Valis prendront en sérieuse considération les observations et communications des directeurs des prisons, concernant la situation générale des prisonniers et l'amélioration des prisons. Ils feront dresser à la fin de chaque trimestre, pour être transmis au Ministère de la Justice, un tableau général indiquant le nombre d'individus entrés en prison dans cet espace de temps, ceux d'entre eux qui ont été mis en liberté et ceux que l'on a dû maintenir en état d'arrestation. Les Mutessarifs et les Caïmacams devront se conformer également dans les Sandjaks et les Cazas aux prescriptions concernant les prisons.

Art. 24. Les valis n'interviendront en aucune façon dans le choix des membres comme dans les délibérations des tribunaux. Toutefois, si l'examen des affaires dont les tribunaux doivent connaître et des procès en matière pénale venaient à subir des retards, ou si des plaintes étaient formulées de la part des intéressés, les valis en informeront les Présidents des Tribunaux, et, au besoin, le Ministère de la Justice, et feront ainsi accélérer la marche des procès. En outre, ils sont tenus d'exécuter les jugements rendus et de ne pas ajourner, sans motif, une affaire déjà jugée.

Art. 25. Ainsi que le prescrit la loi, il est formellement défendu aux valis d'influencer tant soit peu les tribunaux et de laisser supposer, pendant le jugement, qu'ils protègent l'une des parties en litige.

Art. 26. Les jugements des Tribunaux Nizamié dans les affaires civiles et correctionnelles seront libellés en langue Turque ; ils porteront au bas du texte et suivant les localités, la traduction en Arabe, en Grec, en Bulgare, en Bosniaque, ou en Arménien.

Art. 27. Les valis sont chargé de la surveillance, en général, dans les provinces, de la perception, de la conservation, de l'expédition et de l'emploi des revenus de l'Etat. Ils auront soin de se conformer aux dispositions des règlements et des instructions spéciales qui déterminent les limites des pouvoirs et de la responsabilité qui leur appartiennent de ce chef conjointement avec les Defterdars.

Art. 28. Les valis n'ont ancun pouvoir d'imposer à la population, sans un ordre supérieur, et sans la sanction d'un Iradé Impérial, aucune nouvelle taxe, ni de réduire au-dessous du chiffre fixé un des impôts existants. Leurs attributions consistent à administrer les affaires financières, à opérer à temps et convenablement les rentrés de revenus établis, à apporter de l'économie dans les dépenses, c'est-a-dire à sauvegarder les intérêts du Trésor dans les dépenses déterminées comme dans celles qui ne le sont pas, à préserver enfin de toute perte les revenus de l'Etat en général, à agir enfin avec équité dans la perception, tout en veillant à ce que des arriérés ne s'accumulent pas par la négligence des employés. Les valis peuvent, s'ils constatent quelques illégalités dans l'assiette ou dans le chiffre de l'impôt, en étudier la modification et l'amélioration et les soumettre à la Sublime Porte. Ils doivent, en outre, s'enquérir constamment si les Defterdars conforment leurs actes aux instructions concernant leurs fonctions.

Art. 29. De nouvelles et spéciales instructions régleront le mode de construction des routes et d'autres travaux d'utilité publique sur la base de l'abolition du système des corvées qui demeurent formellement défendues.

Art. 30. Les dispositions testamentaires relatives aux successions Chrétiennes sont maintenues.

Il ne sera pas touché aux biens des mineurs Musulmans et non-Musulmans ayant des tuteurs et l'on devra se conformer à cet égard aux lois et aux usages établis. En cas de plaintes contre la conduite des tuteurs envers les mineurs, l'autorité prendra ces derniers sous sa protection, tout en portant un sérieux examen sur l'objet des plaintes formulées.

Art. 31. Les valis sont autorisés à tenir la main à une prompte expédition, dans les localités placées sous leur juridiction, des affaires civiles, financières ou de police. Ils transmettront directement à cet égard, les ordres nécessaires aux Mutessarifs et aux Caïmacams et appliqueront les décisions prises par le Gouvernement. Les employés sous les ordres de l'administration devront toujours s'adresser aux valis. Pour les affaires judiciaires les Mutessarifs sont tenus de s'adresser au besoin au Ministère de la Justice, d'exécuter les ordres et décisions que leur seront communiqués et d'en donner avis aux valis.

Art. 32. Les valis devront faire en personne des tournées d'inspection dans l'intérieur des provinces et veiller à la marche régulière des affaires en général.

Chapitre IV.—*Devoirs des Mutessarifs et des Caïmacams.*

Art. 33. Les Mutessarifs sont, dans les Sandjaks, les représentants du vali. Leurs devoirs sont identiques à ceux des valis indiqués dans les présentes instructions. De même que la surveillance des valis s'étend sur les Sandjaks, les Mutessarifs surveillent, de même, à leur tour, les Cazas dépendant du Sandjak à la tête duquel ils sont placés.

Art. 34. Les Mutessarifs communiquent et confient aux Caïmacams toute exécution concernant les affaires rentrant dans la limite des pouvoirs à eux conférés. Pour les questions dépassant cette limite, ils en réfèrent préalablement aux valis et agissent en conséquence.

Art. 35. Dans les affaires de police d'une haute importance, les Mutessarifs, tout en demandant des instructions aux valis, sont autorisés à en informer au besoin la Sublime Porte. Dans les affaires judiciaires, ils pourront également correspondre avec le Ministère de la Justice.

Art. 36. Les Caïmacams sont dans les Cazas les représentants des Mutessarifs. Leurs devoirs consistent à exécuter les dispositions des présentes instructions relatives à l'Administration des Cazas et à veiller à l'expédition des affaires civiles, financières et judiciaires.

Chapitre V.—*Attributions des Conseils et des Tribunaux.*

Art. 37. Les membres des Tribunaux Nizamiés doivent se conformer aux lois établies et ne jamais s'écarter des principes de la justice et de l'équité.

En vertu de l'impartialité des tribunaux, leurs membres jouissent d'une entière liberté et indépendance dans leur opinion. Les membres des tribunaux sont placés en corps, sous la dépendance du Ministère de la Justice.

Art. 38. Les Conseils d'Administration présidés par les Valis dans les Vilayets, par les

Mutessarifs dans les Sandjaks et par les Caïmacams dans les Cazas connaissent des affaires administratives concernant l'Etat et le pays. Leur devoir consiste à donner librement leur avis sur les affaires qui sont soumises à leurs délibérations conformément à la loi et à l'usage.

Art. 39. Les membres des Conseils d'Administration ne sont pas responsables d'une exécution contraire à leurs décisions. Ils doivent toutefois s'abstenir de tout abus dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. La responsabilité résultant des actes exécutés, contrairement aux décisions annulées ou ajournées sans motifs, retombera sur les fonctionnaires chargés du pouvoir exécutif.

Art. 40. Dans le cas où les membres des Conseils d'Administration reconnaîtraient des irrégularités ou des injustices dans le service administratif, ils pourront communiquer, par un rapport à la Sublime Porte, le résultat des constatations qu'ils auront effectuées en se tenant dans les limites de la stricte justice. Tout individu qui serait l'objet de vexations exercées contre sa personne ou d'injustices commises contre ses intérêts, de la part d'un fonctionnaire public ou d'un simple particulier, a le droit de s'en plaindre directement à la Sublime Porte. Toutefois, s'il est constaté que ces plaintes sont le résultat d'une animosité personnelle, le calomniateur sera passible des peines édictées par la loi.

Disposition Finale.

Le Comité d'Inspection du Conseil Exécutif est chargé de veiller à la stricte exécution des présentes instructions. Toute infraction à leurs dispositions entraînera la responsabilité devant la loi.

(Translation.)

Instructions relating to the General Administration of the Vilayets.

Chapter I.—*The Duties of the Valis.*

Article I. THE Empire is divided into provinces called vilayets. The administration of each vilayet is entrusted to a Vali or Governor-General.

Art 2. All Ottoman subjects, to whatever class they may belong, are, without exception, equal before the law. The security of individual rights being the sole object of the establishment of States, the first and most pressing duty of the Valis is to assure and to guarantee the rights of all Ottoman subjects, both collectively and individually, and to place them beyond the reach of arbitrary or vexatious action.

Art. 3. The Valis are left quite free in the exercise of their functions, but at the same time they are directly responsible to Government for the execution of their orders.

Art. 4. The duties of the Valis are, in accordance with present instructions, divided into two categories:—

1. The execution of the reforms.
2. The exercise of their functions within the limits of their powers.

Art. 5. The duties incumbent on the Valis, as far as concerns the execution of the reforms, consist in putting into practice completely and altogether the measures decreed, in accordance with the Imperial Firman recently promulgated. Their powers, properly so-called, consist in watching over the maintenance and regular development of the reforms, when once they shall have been applied, as well as the general administration, in a sense corresponding with the interests of the State and of the province.

Chapter II.—*Duties of the Valis. Execution of the Reforms.*

Art. 6. The duties relating to the execution of the reforms comprise:—

(*a.*) The new system of election of members and of the constitution of the Tribunals and Councils.

(*b.*) The system of classification and of election of police-agents, of the tax-gatherers, of bailiffs, of the "personnel" of the staff of the Councils and Tribunals, as well as of custodians.

(*c.*) The organization and administration of prisons.

(*d.*) The improvement of the formalities relating to the drawing-up and delivery of the titles of property, and the strict observance of the laws in the transfer of landed property.

(*e.*) The modification of the tax of exoneration from military service, and its levy on a system of proportional distribution;

(*f.*) The application in an equitable manner of the system of forced labour for the construction of roads and other works ;

(*g.*) The progress and development of agriculture ; the superintendence of the proper employment, and of regularity in the accounts of the funds of the Agricultural Treasuries instituted with the above object ;

(*h.*) The fixing of the assessment of the taxes, the designation of the sources of local contributions, and the adopting of means suited to secure their receipt.

Art. 7. The most important point in the formation of the Councils and Tribunals, that essential part of the reforms, consists in the free exercise of the power of election granted to all classes of the population, and which is to be exercised free from all interference ; therefore, it is the Valis' duty—

(*a.*) To see that the choice both of the electors sent by the villages and of the eligible persons named by them, shall be carried out without any influence being exerted by the Government functionaries, or by the notables of the country ;

(*b.*) To hand over at once to justice, for punishment in accordance with the law, every individual, whoever he may be, who shall have attempted to intimidate the electors from a feeling of personal animosity against one of the candidates, whether it be openly or secretly, with the object of preventing the election or of annulling the vote ;

(*c.*) To choose from the list of the members elected by the population to the extent of double the necessary number, according to the special instructions, those persons who most enjoy the public confidence.

The Valis are to superintend in person the strict application of the system of election indicated above, and to cause the Mutessarifs and the Kaïmakams to conform equally thereto.

Art. 8. In the composition of the corps of police-agents, and of tax-collectors, as well as in the choice of the personnel of the service and of custodians, it will be their duty to conform to the special instructions mentioned in the Article relating to the execution of the reforms.

The powers of these agents form, in some sort, part of those of the Valis, as these last represent the Executive Power, while the agents in question are the intermediaries for carrying out its orders.

Therefore the Valis are bound to see that these agents discharge the duties which are incumbent upon them within the limits of the special instructions.

Art. 9. In the choice of police agents and others, individuals of bad conduct must be struck out with the greatest care, and only persons who are honourable and worthy of confidence must be taken, without restriction as to the class of population to which they may belong.

It is the Valis' duty to prescribe formally to the proper persons to give the greatest attention that the choice of these agents be carried out exactly according to the above conditions.

They will be responsible when (the persons so chosen having committed acts which are reprehensible and contrary to the special instructions) they have shown negligence in sending them before the Tribunals.

Art. 10. The organization and administration of prisons have a double object. The first is to prevent persons who are undergoing examination being imprisoned with those who are condemned to penalties decreed by the law ; the second, to prevent any one from being kept in prison uselessly and without a regular sentence.

The chief superintendence of the prisons is intrusted to the Valis in the vilayets, to the Mutessarifs in the sandjaks, and to the Kaïmakams in the cazas. A Registrar nominated by the Authorities, and who is at the same time to be director of the prison, shall be charged with registering the names of the detained persons and with drawing up the reports.

Art. 11. The Valis shall, in the first place, take the necessary measures to constitute the Councils in the form recommended. They shall select the directors and warders of the prisons. They shall then establish in the chief place of the vilayets and sandjaks a Committee of First Instance, composed of a President and two members, Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans.

Art. 12. It will be the duty of these Committees to inquire into the causes which have led to the arrest by the zaptiehs of the accused persons, and to order them to be imprisoned and interrogated, if the act attributed to them is of a nature to bring on them the penalties decreed by law ; to set immediately at liberty, upon bail, those whose conduct does not require the application of the law ; to see that no one is retained in prison without necessity.

The Committees shall daily draw up, and shall send in to the Valis, reports indicating

which of the individuals brought to the police-office have been set at liberty, and which have been kept under arrest.

Art. 13. All Ottoman subjects without distinction can acquire lands belonging to private persons, whether handed over by way of transfer, or to the State as "Mahbul" (escheat), or sold by auction, or, lastly, lands that are free.

Art 14. Special instructions will be drawn up concerning the manner of drawing out and handing over titles of property, the principle and the collection of the tax for exoneration from military service, the construction of roads and other works of public utility, the progress and development of agriculture, the administration of the agricultural treasuries, and, lastly, the improvement of the assessment of the taxes and of the sources of the local contributions.

These instructions will be most explicit touching the duties of the Valis relative to these matters, who will be bound to conform strictly thereto.

The Valis are authorized to execute all the measures authenticated by the special instructions, and they are personally responsible as well for their non-execution as for the abuses which may arise.

Chapter III.—*General Duties of the Valis, or their powers properly so-called.*

Art. 15. The duties of the Valis are, as has been specified in Chapter I, to secure the maintenance and regular development of the reforms which have been applied.

Art. 16. The duties indicated in the present Chapter constitute the Valis' mission; they are bound to pay constant attention that the functionaries, in the several branches of the administration of the vilayet, perform, on their part, the duties which are incumbent on them. They are therefore authorized to remove from their places those of the employés placed directly under their orders who have neglected their duties or have committed illegal acts, or acts contrary to the instructions which concern them. This dismissal, however, can only take place after a preliminary inquiry, and a verdict in conformity with the circumstances and with the special regulations.

As to those employés whose dismissal does not require the authorization of the Subilme Porte, the Valis are bound to submit to it the causes which led to the dismissal.

As to those who can only be removed from their functions directly by the Sublime Porte, the Valis must first report to Constantinople the circumstances which account for and justify the dismissal.

If the employés who do not come directly under the Valis, but under some Minister or Administration, commit reprehensible acts, the Valis shall report them to the Minister or Administration to which the employés belong.

Any negligence on the part of the Valis in the superintendence which they ought to exercise over the acts of the subordinate employés, will attach responsibility to them.

The functionaries placed directly under the orders of the Valis, and acting in accordance with their instructions, are equally responsible within the limits of their special province.

Art. 17. The Valis are authorized to take all police measures which they judge necessary.

However, in case of extraordinary incidents which might disturb public order, they ought to refer to the Sublime Porte, while taking proper proceedings to discover their causes. Likewise, under similar circumstances, the Mutessarifs will ask for instructions from the Valis, and while taking those dispositions that circumstances dictate, they can bring the facts to the knowledge of the Sublime Porte, according to the exigencies of the place and of the affair.

Art. 18. The Valis are expressly forbidden to employ the agents and officers of police for their personal service under any plea or pretext whatever. This order applies equally to the Mutessarifs, to the Kaïmakams, and to the other functionaries of the State.

Art. 19. Whenever the police-agents, tax-collectors, or bailiffs take without payment, from the villages, provisions and forage, the inhabitants are authorized to address their complaints at once to the authorities, and the Valis are strictly bound to see that similar acts do not occur, and that the offenders are punished in accordance with the Law.

Art. 20. It is strictly forbidden to procure, in any improper manner, or by vexatious proceedings, beasts of burden necessary for the transport from one place to another of military baggage or ammunition.

Art. 21. The Valis ought continually to inspect the prisons, to inquire into the state and the health of the prisoners, to see that they are occupied, that those who have completed their term are immediately set at liberty, and that no one is detained in prison

a considerable time without trial. If the trials of individuals detained under accusation are unduly protracted before the Tribunals who are trying them, the Valis ought to accelerate the process and put the judgments pronounced in execution.

Art. 22. The Valis will employ the Presidents of the Civil Tribunals for the superintendence of the prisons, and for the certification of the condition of the prisoners.

Art. 23. The Valis shall take into serious consideration the observations and communications of the directors of the prisons, concerning the general condition of the prisoners, and the improvement of the prisons. They shall cause to be drawn up at the end of every quarter, to be transmitted to the Ministry of Justice, a general table indicating the number of persons who have entered prison during that space of time, those of them who have been set at liberty, and those who have been kept in a state of arrest. The Mutessarifs and the Kaïmakams in the sandjaks and the cazas must likewise conform to the regulations concerning the prisons.

Art. 24. The Valis shall not in any way intervene in the election of members, nor in the deliberations of the Tribunals. However, if the inquiry into cases which the Tribunals have to take cognizance of, and if criminal cases meet with delays, or if complaints are brought forward by the interested parties, the Valis shall inform the Presidents of the Tribunals of it, and, if necessary, the Ministry of Justice, and shall thus accelerate the progress of the trials. Further, they are bound to execute the judgments pronounced, and not to delay, without motive, an affair already judged.

Art. 25. As the law ordains, the Valis are formally forbidden to influence, in the least degree, the Tribunals, or to allow it to be supposed, during the trial, that they take the side of either of the parties to the suit.

Art. 26. The judgments of the Nizamié Tribunals in civil or correctional affairs shall be drawn up in the Turkish language; they shall bear, at the bottom of the text, and according to the localities, a translation in Arabic, in Greek, in Bulgarian, in Bosnian, or in Armenian.

Art. 27. The Valis are charged with the superintendence, in general, in the provinces, of the collecting, of the custody, of the dispatch, and of the employment of the revenues of the State. They shall take care to conform to the dispositions of the regulations, and of the special instructions which determine the limits of the powers and responsibility which belong to them under this head, jointly with the Defterdars.

Art. 28. The Valis have no power to impose on the population, without superior order, and without the sanction of an Imperial Iradé, any new tax, nor to reduce an existing tax below its fixed figure. Their duties consist in administering financial affairs, in effecting the collection of the revenues as fixed by law, at the proper time and in a suitable manner, and in bringing economy to bear on the expenditure, that is in securing the interest of the Treasury as well in the expenditure decreed, as in that which is not, and in preserving the revenues of the State in general from all loss, and in acting with equity in the collection of the taxes, while seeing that arrears do not accumulate from the negligence of the employés. The Valis may, if they discover any illegalities in the assessment or in the amount of the taxes, study their modification and improvement, and submit the result to the Sublime Porte. Further, they ought constantly to inquire if the Defterdars act in conformity with the instructions concerning their functions.

Art. 29. New and special instructions will regulate the system of constructing the roads and other works of public utility, on the basis of the abolition of the system of corvées which are and will be formally forbidden.

Art. 30. The testamentary arrangements relating to the succession of Christians are maintained. The goods of minors, Mussulman or non-Mussulman, who have guardians, will not be interfered with, and in this respect the laws and usages established should be conformed to. In case of complaints against the conduct of guardians towards their wards, the authorities will take the latter under their protection, while examining seriously the subject of the complaints brought forward.

Art. 31. The Valis are authorized to promote the prompt dispatch of civil, financial, and police affairs in the localities placed under their jurisdiction. With this object they will transmit directly the necessary orders to the Mutessarifs and to the Kaïmakams, and will carry out the decisions of the Government. The *employés* under the orders of the Administration must always address themselves to the Valis. As regards judicial matters the Mutessarifs are bound, if necessary, to address themselves to the Ministry of Justice, to execute the orders and decisions which are communicated to them, and to advise the Valis of them.

Art. 32. The Valis must make personally tours of inspection in the interior of the provinces and see to the regular progress of affairs in general.

Chapter IV.—*Duties of the Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams.*

Art. 33. The Mutessarifs are the representatives of the Valis in the sandjaks. Their duties are identical with those of the Valis laid down in the present instructions. In the same way as the superintendence of the Valis extends over the sandjaks, so the Mutessarifs superintend in their turn the cazas belonging to the sandjaks over which they preside.

Art. 34. The Mutessarifs communicate and confide to the Kaïmakams the execution of all affairs which come within the limit of the powers confided to them. As regards questions which pass this limit, they refer them first to the Valis, and act accordingly.

Art. 35. In police affairs of great importance, the Mutessarifs, while asking for instructions from the Valis, are authorized to inform, if necessary, the Sublime Porte. In judicial matters, they may similarly correspond with the Ministry of Justice.

Art. 36. The Kaïmakams are the representatives of the Mutessarifs in the cazas. Their duties consist in carrying out the arrangements of the present instructions relating to the administration of the cazas, and in superintending the dispatch of civil, financial, and judicial affairs.

Chapter V.—*Duties of the Councils and Tribunals.*

Art. 37. The members of the Nizamiés Tribunals must conform to the established laws, and never depart from the principles of justice and equity.

In virtue of the impartiality of the Tribunals, their members enjoy complete liberty and independence of opinion. The members of the Tribunals are placed as a whole under the authority of the Ministry of Justice.

Art. 38. The Administrative Councils presided over by the Valis in the vilayets, by the Mutessarifs in the sandjaks, and by the Kaïmakams in the cazas, take cognizance of the administrative affairs which concern the State and the province. Their duty consists in freely giving their advice on affairs submitted to their deliberations in accordance with law and custom.

Art. 39. The members of the Administrative Councils are not responsible for execution contrary to their decisions. They must, however, abstain from all abuse in the exercise of their functions. The responsibility resulting from acts carried out contrary to decisions annulled or adjourned without motives, will fall on the functionaries charged with the executive power.

Art. 40. In cases when the members of the Administrative Councils shall discover irregularities or injustice in the administrative service, they may communicate, by a report to the Sublime Porte, the results of the discovery they may have made, while keeping within the limits of strict justice. Any individual who may be the object of vexatious acts exercised against his person, or of injustice committed against his interests, on the part of a public functionary or of a private person, has the right to complain directly to the Sublime Porte. If it is proved, however, that these complaints are the results of personal animosity, the calumniator will be subject to the penalties decreed by law.

Final Provision.

The Committee of Inspection of the Executive Council is charged with superintending the strict execution of the present instructions. Any infraction of their arrangements will entail responsibility before the law.

No. 66.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison of a conversation with Raschid Pasha on the engagement between the Imperial troops and insurgents who had passed from Dalmatia, and upon complaints which appear to have been made by Count Andrassy at St. Petersburgh, at the want of diligence shown by the Porte in preparing for the return of the refugees.

Count Zichy has judged the action of the Porte differently from the Austro-Hungarian Prime Minister, for he has frequently spoken to me in praise of the good-will with which the necessary measures were being prepared.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Pera, March* 8, 1876.

INTELLIGENCE reached the Porte from the Herzegovina yesterday, announcing a fresh engagement between the Imperial troops and the insurgents at a place called Iposhka, near the Dalmatian frontier. The fighting commenced on the Saturday and was renewed the next day, when the insurgents received reinforcements from Dalmatia consisting of a body of 700 men, accompanied by twenty horse loads of ammunition. In communicating the news for your Excellency's information, Raschid Pasha said he could not possibly reconcile it with the assurances received from Austria in regard to the maintenance of a strict neutrality on her frontier after the adoption of Count Andrassy's note, and that there could be little doubt of such proceedings being at this moment calculated to influence considerably the policy and intentions of the Prince of Montenegro with reference to the pacification of the insurrection, which, under similar circumstances, would naturally become impossible; but what seems to have caused greater surprise to Raschid Pasha is a despatch from Count Andrassy to Prince Gortchakow, the substance of which was telegraphed by Cabouli Pasha, complaining of want of diligence and good will on the part of the Porte in making the necessary arrangements for the return of the refugees into the Herzegovina. Now the Porte has acted in this instance in strict conformity with the suggestions of the Austrian Government, which thought it desirable that the work of the pacification, and more particularly of the return of the refugees, should not really begin until after the arrival of the Imperial Commissioners in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Porte, nevertheless, made various arrangements against the return of the refugees, and now that almost everything is in readiness Raschid Pasha thinks it really strange that Count Andrassy should find any cause for dissatisfaction or complaint on this score.

Should the neutrality of the Dalmatian frontier be not strictly maintained there is no saying, his Excellency went on to say, what turn things might take for Turkey, particularly in the event of any necessity to enter Montenegro. He hopes, however, that after all the concessions which have been made, Europe would have no reason to lay the blame on Turkey for the continuation of the insurrection.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 67.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 10, 1876.

DURING Mr. Consul Holmes' stay at Constantinople I asked him to draw up a Memorandum respecting the immediate causes of the insurrection in the Herzegovina and the present position of affairs there and in Bosnia.

I have the honour now to inclose a copy of it, which your Lordship will find interesting.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Memorandum by Consul Holmes regarding the Affairs of the Herzegovina.

TO persons acquainted with the course of affairs during the last few years in Bosnia and the Herzegovina there can be no doubt that the insurrection was first brought about, and afterwards supported by, foreign influence.

There was no particular reason, or any excess of oppression, to justify or occasion a rising of the people in 1875 beyond what has existed any time since 1860, but it was seen that the moment was propitious, inasmuch as the troops had been, during the few last years, gradually withdrawn from the Herzegovina until there were scarcely more than seven or eight battalions in the Province.

A few individuals from Nevessine, the richest and most prosperous district of the

Herzegovina, and which might naturally have been considered the least likely to revolt, and which did not revolt during the former insurrection, were induced to avail themselves of some excuse to leave their homes and take refuge at Grahovo.

Fair pretexts were unfortunately not wanting in the circumstances of their normal condition, and they were used to give an appearance of spontaneity to the movement. The first evident indication of foreign action was given by the intercourse between the refugees and the Omladina of Servia, which at once sent agents to confer with them and money to supply their wants. At this time the Prince of Montenegro complained that Servia was plotting to create some kind of disturbance, and that instead of summoning the Herzegovinians to Belgrade, she was endeavouring to fix the responsibility on Montenegro by selecting Grahovo as the head-quarters of the conspiracy. After having arranged their plans and received their instructions the natives of Nevessine asked to be allowed to return to their homes. This was opposed by Dervish Pasha, who had suspicions of what had been going on, but the Porte was persuaded to give the permission demanded. Immediately after their return the people of Nevessine began the insurrectionary movement by refusing to receive zaptiehs and to pay certain taxes, and put forth every grievance they could allege to justify their conduct.

The Turks promised redress and every possible satisfaction, but without success, and the promoters of the insurrection divided into bands and spread over the country, raising the villages in every direction, destroying the houses of the inhabitants, and forcing them to take up arms. The Turks were quite unable to prevent this, as the small force they could command was barely sufficient to protect the towns, and they could not send a single battalion against the insurgent bands, who were thus quite free to dictate to the unprotected and unarmed Christian population, the greater part of whom rose in arms simply because they had no alternative.

As the insurrection spread the Dalmatians began to show the most enthusiastic sympathy with the insurgents by joining them in bands, and furnishing them with arms, ammunition, and provisions. No such sympathy was manifested during the insurrection in 1860-61. The Montenegrins also began to join them; and then the districts of Piva, Drobniak, Baniani, and Zupci, which have enjoyed perfect liberty and, in consequence of arrangements with the Porte, have been annually receiving certain sums of money from the Government ever since 1862, also rose in arms and joined the revolt. This is supposed to have been partly at the instigation of Montenegro and partly from a turbulent nature in sympathy with their fellow-Christians. Since that moment, though the Prince Nicolas on the one side, and the Austrian Government on the other, have loudly asserted their neutrality and their friendship for the Porte, both the Montenegrins and the Dalmatians have openly given every possible aid to the insurgents, and have, in fact, done everything that declared enemies to Turkey could have effected short of sending their regular troops to take part in the insurrection.

The so-called insurrection in Bosnia might be better termed an invasion by bands openly formed in Austrian Croatia and Servia.

It has never extended beyond the range of their operations, and cannot be called a popular movement.

The promise of an entire change of the policy which has hitherto been pursued by Austria and Montenegro will, I hope, if seriously carried out, speedily effect a pacification, which, however, might have been obtained in the same manner any time during the last four months.

And now the situation assumes another phase. The first result of pacification will be that the Austrian and Montenegrin Governments will insist on the return of all the poverty-stricken refugees—men, women and children—who have hitherto found asylum in Dalmatia and Montenegro, and the Turkish Government will have to immediately repair their ruined homesteads, furnish them with seed for this year's crops, provide for their support until next harvest, and afford them protection against the very natural feelings of vengeance which exist among the Turkish landholders, who have seen their property destroyed, and often their families murdered by the very people with whom they will be required to live on better terms than formerly.

The first difficulties can only be met by a liberal expenditure, the last by the most unflinching severity towards those who seek to revenge themselves. I can hardly believe it possible to avoid some cases of murder in retaliation at first, but I think that a few exemplary punishments will have the effect of speedily preventing them from becoming very frequent. As to the assistance to be given to support the people till the next harvest, I would strongly recommend it to be given in the form of payment for public works, and not as simple charity, the effect of which would be to encourage idleness and create a violent outcry when it was withdrawn. The distribution of all assistance in

money and seed should, for obvious reasons, be under the control, and on the responsibility, of a single individual of known probity.

With regard to the administrative reforms promised by the Government, there is one which has not been alluded to, and without which all others will be impossible, and that is the stability of the Governors-General in their offices. It is utterly absurd to imagine that, while these functionaries are changed every few months, any reforms can be carried out. No one can be expected even to learn the requirements of the Province entrusted to his care in less than six months, and unless he is assured of being allowed sufficient time to carry out his projects he has no inducement to inaugurate them, and can have no ambition beyond his own personal interests. It is, therefore, evident that the system which has so long obtained, is suicidal to all good government, and must certainly be changed if any amelioration is sincerely intended.

The division of Herzegovina and Bosnia into two separate Pashalics is, I consider, impracticable, as the former is a small and comparatively unproductive Province intimately connected with the latter in all its interests, and dependent on it for its requirements. A single Governor-General could contrive his arrangements so as to satisfy the exigencies of both together, while two separate Administrations would inevitably induce antagonism and confusion. Bosnia and the Herzegovina should, therefore, form one Vilayet, under a Governor-General selected for his courage, energy, probity, and intelligence. He should be vested with full power to act as he judges for the best on his own responsibility, and should be assured of, at least, six years' tenure of office, unless he proved clearly incompetent to fulfil his duties. He should also be allowed to choose his own subordinates.

The equality of the Christian and Mussulman population has been proclaimed, but this can never be a matter of fact until the former are permitted the privilege of serving their country as soldiers, or as long as the permission of carrying arms is accorded to the one and denied to the other; while these distinctive marks of inferiority are imposed on the Christians they will always feel in the position of a conquered race, and no real feeling of equality can possibly exist.

No. 68.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 13, 1876.

I FOUND Raschid Pasha to-day much gratified by a communication made to him by Count Zichy of the measures which are being taken by the Austro-Hungarian Government to guard their frontiers.

Ljubibratich, and several of his companions of secondary importance who had been arrested, would be "internés," while some Italian sympathizers and the Dutch lady Mdlle. Merkus, who has been an active agent in the distribution of assistance to the insurgents, who had likewise been taken, would be, or had already been, put on board a steamer to be conveyed out of the country.

Raschid Pasha gratefully acknowledged the good will which the Austrian Government are now showing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 69.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 13, 1876.

RASCHID PASHA has been informed from Belgrade that the Prince of Servia had ordered the militia to be held ready to march to the frontier at the shortest notice to repel a probable attack by Turkey.

His Excellency observed that he had very recently reminded the Servian Agent that the Porte was prohibited by international engagements with the Great Powers from invading the Principality as long as it kept the peace, and that it was therefore impossible for him to admit that Prince Milan could seriously apprehend attack.

I said that, as the last accounts I had received from Belgrade were of a more satis-

factory character, and had announced a discontinuance of the armaments, I greatly doubted the accuracy of the information he had received.

I have, however, telegraphed to Mr. White to ascertain the truth of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 70.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 13, 1876.*

THE accounts which have reached Constantinople from the seat of the insurrection during the last few days have been more than usually contradictory; for, while rumours have been current of a severe check suffered by the Imperial troops, the accounts received by the Porte represent them as having been entirely successful.

I inclose copies of the information communicated by the Porte.

Rashid Pasha, whom I questioned to-day on the subject, assured me that the telegrams from Mostar and Ragusa made no mention of a loss of guns, though he stated that, after accomplishing the revictualling of Piva, the troops had found themselves in such deep snow, that they lost most of their horses.

It appears extremely probable that, under those circumstances, they may have been unable to extricate the whole of their guns.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 70.

Extract from the "Turquie" of March 13, 1876.

Sublime Porte, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

Direction de la Presse.

(Communiqué.)

DES bruits erronés ayant circulé sur un engagement qui a eu lieu entre les troupes Impériales et les insurgés, la Direction de la Presse invite les journaux à publier les nouvelles officielles parvenues à la Sublime Porte, et qui se résument ainsi qu'il suit :

Sélim Pacha a ravitaillé Oransko pour trois mois ; ayant rencontré les insurgés sur la route de Gatchko, il les a défaits et mis en déroute ; puis, nos troupes ont rejoint sans difficulté le Muchir à Gatchko.

Le Directeur de la Presse,
(Signé) O. HAMDY.

Télégramme adressé par le Consul-Général de Turquie à Raguse à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, en date du 10 Mars.

Sélim Pacha, après avoir remis 20,000 sacs de farine à Piva, a été, à son rétour près Muretovitza, entouré par les insurgés surgissant de tous côtés ; il les a repoussés en leur causant des pertes sensibles ; celles de l'armée sont rélativement infimes. Au milieu des neiges d'une hauteur de plus de trois pics, nos troupes se sont frayé un passage et sont revenues a Gasco, après avoir accompli leur périleuse mission. Le Maréchal est allé de son côté et arrivé à Gasco. Cris de victoire des rebelles infondés.

Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte par son Excellence Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, Commandant-en-chef des Troupes Impériales en Bosnie et en Herzégovine, en date de
26 Février
9 Mars

Le férik Sélim Pacha parti de Gatchko, pour ravitailler Piva, a repoussé les insurgés réunis sur les hauteurs. Après avoir ravitaillé cette place, il a défait complètement, à son

retour à Mouradovitza, une bande d'insurgés qu'il a rencontrés sur sa route. Il a fait ensuite son entrée à Gatchko.

(Translation.)

Sublime Porte, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Direction of the Press.

(Communicated.)

ERRONEOUS rumours having been circulated as to an engagement which has taken place between the Imperial troops and the insurgents, the Directorate of the Press invites the newspapers to publish the official news which has reached the Sublime Porte, and which may be summed up as follows :—

Selim Pasha has revictualled Oransko for three months ; having met the insurgents on the road to Gatchko, he defeated and routed them ; then our troops rejoined the Muchir at Gatchko without any difficulty.

The Director of the Press,
(Signed) O. HAMDY.

Telegram addressed by the Turkish Consul-General at Ragusa to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated March 10.

Selim Pasha, after having thrown 20,000 sacks of wheat into Piva, was, on his return while near Muretovitza, surrounded by the insurgents, who attacked him on every side. He repulsed them, and inflicted on them severe loss, but that of our army was relatively small. Our troops cut their way through the snow more than three feet deep, and returned to Gatchko after accomplishing their dangerous errand. The Marshal has also set out and reached Gatchko. The shouts of victory raised by the rebels are without foundation.

Telegram addressed to the Sublime Porte by his Excellency Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the Imperial Troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina, dated $\frac{\text{February } 26}{\text{March } 9}$.

Ferik Selim Pasha, after setting out from Gatchko to revictual Piva, repulsed the insurgents assembled on the heights. After having revictualled this place, on his return to Muradovitza, he completely defeated a band of insurgents whom he met on his way. He then entered Gatchko.

No. 71.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 13, 1876.

FROM the more detailed information which has now reached the Austro-Hungarian Embassy it appears that the number of refugees still in Austria greatly exceeds what was supposed a week ago.

They amount, it seems, to not less than 65,000, who have hitherto been supported at the expense of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

It has been intimated that further assistance will not be given to these as there is nothing to prevent them from returning to their own country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 72.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that an officer of the Servian Artillery, named Stevno Paulovitch, with two other Servian officers, came to Bucharest, a few days ago, with a commission to purchase trained artillery horses.

From what I can learn the object of their stay here was not so much the purchase of the horses as the arrangements for their transport. They only offered a very low price—not quite 20*l.* a horse; but they said they had reason to believe they could get them in Russian Bessarabia where, I believe, the officers have gone.

They are said to be authorized to buy 2,000 horses.

While they were here, I hear, they endeavoured to negotiate the purchase of some Krupp cannon from the Roumanian Government, but I do not think they succeeded in coming to any arrangement.

All their purchases were to be delivered as quickly as possible.

I have arranged with my Austrian and French colleagues to endeavour to ascertain what these officers do in Bessarabia, and whether they get any horses from the Russians, but, unfortunately, none of us have any Consular Agents there.

Mr. White, to whom I telegraphed upon the subject, confirms the fact of the mission of these officers for the purpose of purchasing horses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 73.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, March* 15, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom I have since spoken upon the subject, confirms the arrival of three Servian officers to purchase artillery horses and to arrange for their transport.

He appeared to know nothing of their overtures to purchase the Krupp cannon, and upon my telling him that I believed they had seen the Minister of War, he said he did not believe it, or the Minister would have reported it to his colleagues.

He further informed me that his answer to the Servian officers had been that so long as Servia was at peace with Turkey the Roumanian Government had no objection to offer to their purchase or transport of horses through these Principalities, but in the event of a declaration of war the transit of all contraband of war would be strictly and immediately prohibited.

I do not think the Servians have succeeded in buying the cannon, and I shall hear what they do about the horses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 74.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, March* 17, 1876.

HAVING met Count Andrassy yesterday, I spoke to him of the difficulties which threaten to impede, if not prevent, the pacification of the insurgent provinces of Turkey. His Excellency said he was aware of the existence of these difficulties, and that the current of official and popular feeling at Ragusa is opposed to the success of the reforms, which the Porte has promised, and to the acceptance of the amnesty offered by the Sultan. Notwithstanding the difficulties to which I had referred, the pacification of the provinces and their improved administration would be accomplished.

No. 75.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 18, 1876.

AS Count Andrassy stated to me some days ago that he had not yet heard of the Servian Government having received arms by the Russian frontier, I addressed a letter to him yesterday, of which I inclose a copy, containing the substance of Mr. Vivian's telegram to your Lordship of the 15th instant, reporting the arrival of three Servian officers at

Bucharest to arrange for the transport of cavalry horses, which they were instructed to purchase in Roumania and in Bessarabia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

Dear Count Andrassy, *Vienna, March* 17, 1876.

WITH reference to what you have recently said to me respecting Servian armaments, I may mention that Her Majesty's Government are informed that three Servian officers have been to Bucharest to arrange for the purchase of cavalry horses in Roumania, and for the transport of those they may buy in Russian Bessarabia, where they went, after having ascertained that no difficulty would be offered to their proceedings until Servia was actually at war.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 76.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 18, 1876.

ALTHOUGH Count Andrassy speaks confidently of the certain success of the measures which are about to be taken by the Turkish authorities, in concert with those of Austria-Hungary in Croatia and Dalmatia, for the pacification of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, I learn that the Government are fully aware of the present very unpromising aspect of the question.

When Haidar Effendi arrived at Brod, on his way to Bosnia, he had a conference with the principal refugees in that neighbourhood, who surprised him—as if the subject had never been seriously considered at Constantinople—by stating the nature of the material and pecuniary assistance which the authorities must be prepared to afford to returning refugees, and the military measures which would be necessary to protect them from the armed and excited Turkish population, to whom the Government had confided in a great measure the defence of the country since the outbreak of the insurrection. I have been told that Haider Effendi, who went on to Serajevo, intended to ascertain from the Governor there whether the requirements of the emigrants could be complied with, and how far military means could be employed for escorting them from the frontier, and subsequently protecting them in their villages.

My informant said that a considerable force would be necessary for the former object, and that, unless detachments of eight or ten men could be left at each village the refugees, many of whom are most anxious to return, would be afraid to do so.

Similar measures would, of course, be equally required to induce the refugees in Dalmatia to venture across the frontier; and the Turkish force in the provinces, which cannot now, my informant said, exceed 12,000 men, would be inadequate for this duty, even if the insurrection were at an end, and its services were not required in the field. He is therefore of opinion that, without a great addition to the Turkish troops, there is little probability of peace and security being re-established in the districts which have been disturbed.

Another essential element for effecting that object is, he added, also wanting, as the Commissioners have arrived at their respective destinations empty-handed, and without having sufficient means to enable them to re-establish the peasantry in their homesteads, and to provide them with the necessaries of life until the harvest.

It would appear that, unless the Porte can furnish without delay the troops and the money, which are evidently indispensable for repeopling the country, and re-establishing peace and the authority of the Sultan, there is much reason to fear that the insurrection which Count Andrassy considers is already under his control, may continue indefinitely to be a serious drain on the resources of the Porte, if it does not lead to the more disastrous eventualities desired by the enemies of the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 77.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, March* 18, 1876.

DURING a conversation which I had yesterday with Baron Orczy, his Excellency said that, though Prince Milan is in some danger from the revolutionary party in Servia, he believes that the Servian Government will not venture on a war which they cannot hope to carry on successfully with a badly equipped regular army of about 9,000 men.

No. 78.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 18, 1876.

I AM told that the armistice for ten days proposed by the Prince of Montenegro, has not taken place, and that its object was probably to cause delay in the adoption of measures for the return of the refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 79.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, March* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, notwithstanding the peaceable dispositions said to have been manifested by the Christian population of Ljubushki, on the occasion of the late tour of his Excellency Ali Pasha, as reported in my despatch of the 2nd instant, disturbances have again broken out in that district. About 300 Bashi-Bazooks and a few companies of regular troops were sent thither in haste from Mostar, and on Sunday the 5th instant there appears to have been a sharp conflict; the insurgents are said to have been repulsed and to have retired towards the Dalmatian frontier.

News received here from the rebel districts of the Herzegovina would also seem to indicate a renewed activity on the part of the insurgents. In the immediate vicinity of Bilekich, and in the very face as it were of the Turkish garrison, the chief Sochitza is reported to have attacked and plundered three Turkish villages and driven off more than 1,000 head of sheep and cattle. Near Poljitza, where some kind of fortified works are in the course of construction for the better protection of the communications with Trebigné, at Grab, near Ljubinje, and in the neighbourhood of Metkovich, there have also been encounters between the troops and insurgents. I am not able to give any details of these several affairs, but I report them to your Lordship to show that as yet there are no signs of any diminution of the insurrection.

Neither in the north of Bosnia nor in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar do there appear to have been any important movements or conflicts of late, but vague rumours are afloat regarding the arrival of arms and ammunition by the Save and preparations along the frontiers of Servia, which are, doubtless, not entirely without foundation.

The local Government pretends that many of the refugees from these provinces are willing and anxious to return, but are afraid to do so at present, as the military authorities cannot detach troops for their protection, failing which it is supposed the insurgent bands would not allow them to quietly settle down. There is no doubt much truth in this supposition, but I am sure that the refugees would be quite as unwilling to put themselves under the protection of a brutal and ill-disciplined soldiery as to incur the risk of being driven from their homes by the insurgents; and until the insurrection be finally quelled and all troops withdrawn from the rural districts, there is little chance of many of them returning to their country. Although the Austrian Government may refuse to afford them further assistance, they will probably be kept from absolute starvation by private charity, whereas were they to return. I really do not know how they would subsist, for the local authorities have neither the means nor the necessary organisation at their command to carry out the promise of the Porte to supply them with the food, seed, and building materials of which they would stand in need.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. FREEMAN.

No. 80.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 23.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Consul Brock, for transmission to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Acting Consul Brock to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Trieste, March* 18, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the insurgent chief, Ljubibratics, accompanied by his wife, the young Dutch woman, Merkus, who is attired in a Herzegovinian male costume, and the members of his staff, Petrovie, Count Faella, and Cesare, arrived at about noon to-day, on board the Austrian Lloyd's boat from Zara.

When off the port the vessel was boarded by a commissary of police in a small steamboat, into which the party was removed and conveyed to the railway station. The chief, with his wife and Mdlle. Merkus, were then placed in a railway carriage attached to a goods train, which immediately left for Nabresina.

An immense concourse of sympathisers awaited the arrival of the steamer, and loudly expressed their feelings of annoyance and disappointment on the removal of the party by the police; but a large number succeeded in reaching the railway station before the departure of the train, and, notwithstanding the presence of a numerous police force, made an enthusiastic demonstration of sympathy, with cries of "Zivio" and "Viva Italia."

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. W. BROCK.

No. 81.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha March* 24, 1876.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le* 15 *Mars*, 1876.

VOTRE Excellence sait que c'est Mr. Holmes, Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Sérajévo, qui a été le délégué Anglais envoyé à Mostar au commencement de l'insurrection.

Les dispositions amicales témoignées par Mr. Holmes en cette circonstance pour notre pays et le tact parfait avec lequel il s'est acquitté de ses fonctions délicates nous font un devoir d'en exprimer au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine tous les remercîments de la Sublime Porte, et de recommander, d'une manière toute particulière, Mr. Holmes à sa bienveillance.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien être l'interprète de ces sentiments auprès du Foreign Office et d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) RASCHID.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *March* 15, 1876.

YOUR Excellency is aware that Mr. Holmes, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Serajevo, was the English Delegate sent to Mostar at the commencement of the insurrection.

The friendly disposition evinced by Mr. Holmes on this occasion, and the perfect tact with which he has discharged his delicate duties, make it incumbent upon us to convey the thanks of the Sublime Porte to the Government of Her Majesty, and to recommend Mr. Holmes most especially to their favour.

I beg that your Excellency will make known these feelings to the Foreign Office, and I have, &c.

(Signed) RASCHID.

No. 82.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 23, 1876.

COUNT ANDRASSY, to whom I have spoken of the wish of Russia to procure an extension of territory for Montenegro, said he was surprised to learn that Mr. Consul Holmes was a supporter of the scheme, which appeared to him inopportune.

He believes that there is no probability of Prince Nicolas agreeing to acknowledge the sovereignty of the Sultan, nor does he see any advantage which Turkey would derive from his doing so, if there were no objections to the arrangement advocated by General Ignatiew.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 83.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 24, 1876.

I HAD an interview with Count Andrassy on the 20th instant, when his Excellency spoke hopefully of a successful issue of his efforts for the pacification of the Turkish insurgent provinces, though he admitted the difficulties arising from the inability of the Porte to provide sufficient funds for the purpose. He said that the Prince of Montenegro has already given assurances that he will abstain from encouraging or taking part in the insurrection; and that, though the Prince of Servia has asked for a few days for consideration before giving a categorical answer to a demand recently made to him by the Austrian agent at Belgrade for similar assurances, there can be little doubt that his answer will be satisfactory.

The negotiations for a suspension of hostilities were, he said, still pending, and General Rodich had also stated that he would be unable to meet Mouktar Pasha and the insurgent chiefs until after the 28th instant, but the Porte having agreed to an armistice of twelve days, on the condition that during its duration Niksich might be provisioned, orders had been sent to General Rodich, in the Emperor's name, to communicate immediately with the insurgent chiefs, and to arrange without delay for a suspension of hostilities, and a conference in which he should take part between them and the Turkish Commander-in-chief.

On my calling, however, two days later at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to ascertain the result of these orders, I was told that the insurgents had agreed to the suspension of hostilities and the Conference, but had stipulated that the escort of the convoy of provisions to be sent to Niksich should be limited to one battalion, and, as such a condition would be deemed inadmissible by Mouktar Pasha, Count Andrassy had proposed that the road to Niksich should be left open for provisioning the fort during the armistice, and that the insurgents, on the other hand, should also be permitted to receive supplies at the same time, from the Montenegrin frontier.

It might be expected, therefore, that the negotiations for the restoration of peace would be opened in the course of a few days, and, notwithstanding the warlike language held by the insurgents, there is reason to believe that the more moderate among them are disposed to accept favourable terms, which will be offered to them.

The Porte had proposed to accompany the promulgation of the amnesty with a declaration that the property of those who did not avail themselves of it would be confiscated and given to the refugees or insurgents returning to their allegiance, but Count Andrassy having represented that such a declaration would be impolitic, and render those willing to return open to the reproach of having done so in order to enrich themselves at the expense of their former friends and neighbours, the declaration will be amended to the effect that the property of those not accepting the amnesty will be sold, and the proceeds applied to relieve the distress of the sufferers from the insurrection.

With respect to General Ignatiew's representations to the Sultan, reported in a recent telegram of Sir H. Elliot,* in favour of an extension of territory and a port being granted to Montenegro, I was told at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that, as the Russian Ambassador here has never once suggested the expediency of such a measure, General

* See No. 92.

Ignatiew must be supposed to have acted on his own responsibility and without instructions in making a personal appeal to the Sultan in support of it. It may be, however, that M. de Novikow has not raised the question here, as he must be aware that Count Andrassy would consider any concession by the Porte, under present circumstances, to the ambitious views of Servia and Montenegro as extremely impolitic, and as an encouragement to their creating new embarrassments to the Government of the Sultan.

It is satisfactory, however, to know that, whatever may have been the conduct of his Ambassador at Constantinople, the Emperor Alexander has held very earnest language to the Prince of Montenegro, my French colleague having learnt from Cettigné that Prince Nikita had received a letter from the Emperor reproaching him for his conduct and the indifference shown to the advice of Russia, and expressing His Imperial Majesty's surprise at meeting with such ingratitude from Prince Nikita and the Principality.

While such language proves the sincerity of the Emperor's desire for the maintenance of peace, it may be hoped that the pensioner of Russia, to whom it has been addressed, will not dare to disregard it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 84.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 24, 1876.

COUNT ANDRASSY had not received this afternoon the declaration which he has required from the Prince of Servia; and from his language I doubt whether his demand has been followed up by equally energetic language from St. Petersburgh, as he says Prince Gortchakow considered the question of Servian intervention closed when the Prince re-called his Agent from Cettigné.

His Excellency said he still felt confident that the Servians would only bluster, though General Molinari, who does not altogether share this opinion, has just reported that they have placed pontoon bridges at three points on the Drina to be ready for the passage of a large force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 85.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, March* 14, 1876.

AS regards the rising in the district of Ljubushki, reported in my despatch of the 10th instant, I beg to furnish your Lordship with the following particulars:—A band of between 300 and 400 insurgents, under the leaders Ljubibratics and Don Musich, appeared in that neighbourhood, and were soon joined by numbers of the peasants to whom arms had been previously distributed. The total force now collected there is not less than 800 men; and they have intrenched themselves in a strong position at a place called Jabuka, on the Vergoratz mountains. Some few of the peasants who had been provided with arms, delivered them up to the Turkish authorities, instead of joining the insurrection; but all such have since had their houses fired by the insurgents.

I have been informed to-day that Ljubibratics and three other Chiefs who, relying on the immunity from all molestation which they had hitherto enjoyed, had crossed the Dalmatian frontier, have been arrested by the Austrian authorities.

No. 86.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, March 18, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, on the subject of a new audience of Prince Wrede with the Prince of Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Belgrade, March 18, 1876.*

PRINCE WREDE had an audience yesterday of the Prince of Servia, and demanded, on behalf of his Government, a declaration similar to the one obtained by General Baron Rodich from the Prince of Montenegro. He has been promised a reply in the course of a few days.

No. 87.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, March 20, 1876.*

I CAN assure your Lordship that nothing can be more perplexing and confusing than the state at which Servian politics have arrived at the moment when I am writing these lines.

The rivalship between Servia and Montenegro is a constant cause of disturbances in the adjoining provinces, as each of them speculates on accessions of territory, growth of influence, or increased popularity among the Southern Slavs.

No. 88.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, March 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the substance of a conversation I had yesterday with my Austro-Hungarian colleague, Prince Wrede, on the subject of his interview with the Prince of Servia, on the 17th instant, and which I reported to Sir Henry Elliot in my despatch of the 18th instant to your Lordship.

Having called on Prince Wrede, our conversation not unnaturally included the present condition of affairs in this Principality.

Prince Wrede having read to me portions of the last instructions he received from Count Andrassy on the subject, told me that he had insisted with the Prince of Servia on receiving a positive engagement, within the next few days, similar to the one from the Prince of Montenegro, and by which Servia would pledge itself to discontinue the military preparations begun.

He further added that his Government had no intention to throw any obstacles in the way of the Prince of Servia re-organizing his army, or even completing his armaments later, provided it was not done now, at a moment when it might impede and endanger the work of pacification undertaken by the Sovereigns of Russia and Austria, and which they had so much at heart.

I suggested the remark that as the two Imperial Cabinets attached naturally so great a value to the success of his, Prince Wrede's, representations here, it was perhaps to be regretted that some mode had not been devised in making this last communication to the Prince of Servia, by which the Russian Representative here might have actively taken a part in the common task.

Prince Wrede told me that Prince Milan had admitted entirely that he had constantly received most pacific councils from our Russian colleague, M. Kartzoff, and I gathered

from Prince Wrede that the Prince of Servia considers (and it may be with some show of reason) that these last remonstrances of the Austrian Representative here go deeper and differ somewhat in character from those previously made to His Highness, and it was probably on that account that the Prince declined to accept the language of Prince Wrede, as exactly expressing the views of the Emperor of Russia, as well as those of the Emperor of Austria, until he receives some direct confirmation to that effect from St. Petersburgh through the Russian Diplomatic Agent accredited here.

In fact the Prince told Prince Wrede that he would ask M. Kartzoff to telegraph at once what had passed to Prince Gortchakow.

Prince Wrede said that there was nothing in his instructions which could throw any light why it should have been considered superfluous to employ M. Kartzoff as well as himself, in holding that language to the Prince of this country, but though he had no information on the subject, he thought it was known that the alliance and cordial agreement of the two powerful Monarchs was firmly established and rested on a firm basis.

Prince Wrede said further that, moreover, the step he had been instructed to take was merely an earnest and friendly warning ("un avertissement amical et sérieux"), as to what should happen to Servia in case of non-compliance with these demands, as recommended by the two Emperors.

No. 89.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 17, 1876.*

I AM informed by Count Zichy that the Turkish Commander-in-chief in the Herzegovina has received authority to arrange with General Rodich and the insurgent Chiefs for a suspension of hostilities for ten days, provided that an understanding can be come to about the re-victualling of Niksich.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 90.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 18, 1876.*

WHILE I was with Raschid Pasha this afternoon, he received a telegram from Belgrade stating that the warlike feeling in Servia had been greatly moderated by the urgency of the injunctions laid upon the Prince not to embark in any rash enterprise.

The same despatch stated that six Servian officers had been dispatched to inspect the fortresses and the militia, upon the pretext of an apprehension that, if the pacification of the Herzegovina were now to take place, the Porte would take advantage of it to attack the Principality, in order to secure some material guarantee for its future neutrality.

Raschid Pasha looks upon this apprehension as merely simulated with the view to satisfy the war party, and he attaches no importance to the inspection in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 91.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Pera, March 19, 1876.*

MUCH anxiety has been caused at the Porte by information that the insurgents had collected in a large body, stated to number 6,000 men to interrupt the convoy of provisions about to be sent from Piva to Nicksich.

As it is indispensable that the fortress should be revictualled, a serious encounter is considered imminent unless the Chiefs consent to suspend aggressive action

The insurgents are said to be very advantageously posted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 92.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

My Lord, *Pera, March 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison, giving some account of General Ignatiew's audience of the Sultan.

From what His Majesty said respecting Hussein Avni Pasha, it may be assumed that he has at least no immediate intention of replacing him at the head of affairs, which would certainly not be desirable, but the Sultan's expressions of satisfaction with his present Grand Vizier must be received with reserve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Pera, March 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report what is considered to be the general substance of the conversation which took place on the occasion of General Ignatiew's audience of the Sultan on Saturday last. The first topic being Montenegro and the insurrection, his Excellency begged to give His Majesty the assurance that Russia was most anxious to see the pacification of the insurgent provinces, and that orders with that view had already been conveyed from the Emperor to the Prince of Montenegro.

His Excellency then spoke of the financial situation, which, it was generally hoped, had actually received the earnest consideration of His Majesty's Government as one of the most important questions of the day. His Majesty replied that this was one of the matters which occupied fully the attention of his Grand Vizier, who, acting on wiser principles than his predecessor, Hussein Avni Pasha, was conducting the affairs of the State to his imperial satisfaction, adding that he appreciated at the same time the exertions made by his Highness in connection with the Firman of Reforms, which he was glad to see was being properly carried out. The General said he felt gratified, in his turn, to be able to state that Mahmoud Pasha's administration had met with general satisfaction in Europe.

The conversation was once more brought to bear on Montenegro, which the General said would present an element of security to Turkey, provided it was possible to satisfy the wishes of Prince Nicholas and of his people. His Majesty replied by saying that he had already given his instructions on the subject to the Grand Vizier, but that he found him strongly opposed to territorial concessions. The General having apparently wished to press the subject further, received a more categorical answer from the Sultan, to the effect that his Government would try to satisfy Montenegro in other ways, but not by anything like territorial concessions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 93.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 28, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a letter addressed by Rashid Pasha to Musurus Pasha,* instructing him to convey to Her Majesty's Government their appreciation of the able manner in which Mr. Consul Holmes has carried out his duties at Mostar, and I have to request that your Excellency will communicate the contents of this letter to Mr. Holmes, and express to the Porte the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received this testimony to Mr. Holmes' abilities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 81.

No. 94.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 30, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have read with interest the Memorandum drawn up by Mr. Consul Holmes, a copy of which was inclosed in your Excellency's despatch of the 10th instant, respecting the immediate causes of the insurrection in the Herzegovina and the present position of affairs there and in Bosnia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 95.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, March* 30, 1876.

TEN days' armistice arranged to facilitate Rodich's communication with insurgents, operations for provisioning allowed.

No. 96.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(Extract.) *Bosna-Séraï, March* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Imperial Commissioner, Haidar Effendi, arrived here on the 13th instant. On the 14th my colleagues and myself called on his Excellency, and he returned our visits the following day. His Excellency manifests the intention of maintaining the most amicable relations with the Consular Corps; and for my part I have not failed to assure him that he may rely on any assistance I may be able to afford him in the execution of the difficult mission with which he has been entrusted.

His Excellency, to-day, assembled a few of the leading Mussulmans of this town, and announced to them the firm resolve of his Government and himself to carry out the promised reforms with impartiality, and expressed his hope that all classes would do their best to facilitate his task. He also made them clearly understand that all opposition would be put down with a strong hand; and that His Majesty the Sultan did not intend to pander to the evil passions of a few fanatical persons, at the risk of losing two of the Provinces of his Empire.

Already there are symptoms of great opposition and discontent on the part of the Mussulmans; and it is said they have gone so far as to demand the recall of Haidar Effendi. It is to be hoped, however, that the Porte will support Haidar Effendi in his endeavours to affect an amelioration in matters both administrative and judicial.

No. 97.

Mr. Monson to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office March 31.)

Sir, *Ragusa, March* 21, 1876.

THE rumours as to an armistice having been proposed by one or other of the contending parties in the Herzegovina are as yet so vague here that I only advert to them by this steamer in order to mention that the Turkish Consulate maintains that the insurgents want an armistice to enable them to communicate freely with Baron Rodich, as soon as he arrives; and the Russians declare that the Turks have demanded it for strategic and provisioning purposes. The telegraph will have informed your Excellency of the truth before this despatch reaches Vienna.

The Turkish Consul-General tells me that he has again written to Constantinople, in the sense of Mr. Holmes' suggestion, that it might be the best policy to make great concessions to Montenegro. The recognition of the complete independence of the principality, and the natural consequence of such a recognition, namely, the appointment of Foreign Diplomatic Agents accredited to the Prince, the grant of such an extension of

territory as would give the Montenegrins an eligible seaport, and attract them to the coast, where, indeed, the capital would almost certainly be fixed, would undoubtedly alter very materially the complexion of the relations between the Principality and the Porte.

It is difficult to estimate with any accuracy the number of Montenegrins now in the ranks of the insurgents. The Russians say 120, but I should imagine the more correct figure to be between 700 and 800. The father-in-law of Prince Nikita continues to direct from Grahovo the operations of the insurgent bands; and it is pretty clear that Ljubibratics has fallen a victim to the animosity of the Montenegrins. At the same time the Austrian authorities were only too glad to capture a band which contained Italians, whose influence and intrigue might be a source of danger in the state of excitement now prevailing among the Dalmatians.

It is asserted that over eighty members of the band under Moussics have landed on the Island of Curzola, but that their leader has altogether disappeared.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 98.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 1.)

My Lord, *Mostar, March 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of the 20th March, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, regarding the present position of affairs here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Mostar, March 20, 1876.*

I HAD had the honour to inform your Excellency from Ragusa that the present state of affairs in the Herzegovina appeared even worse than when I left for Constantinople. The very serious defeat of the Turks at Muratovizza, which occurred on the 6th instant, has had the effect of encouraging the insurgents to refuse submission. On that occasion some 2,000 Turkish troops proceeded to revictual the blockhouses in Piva, each man carrying from eight to ten okes of grain. This was represented at Ragusa as arising from a total want of baggage animals; but Ali Pashi informs me that it was only occasioned by the deep snow, which rendered the roads impassable for horses. The insurgents had assembled in the Douga Pass, expecting that the object of the expedition was to revictual Nicksich, and so missed the convoy, which arrived safely in Piva. The officers having met no rebels, took no precautions on their return march, and the soldiers straggled through the passes without any order, when they found they were surrounded by insurgents, who occupied as usual the rocks on each side of the road. Scarcely any resistance was made, except by one Bosniac battalion, which fought heroically, and brought off the General, Selim Pasha. The mass of the troops, throwing away their arms, fled towards a small stream, usually fordable, but they found it impassable from the melting of the snow. There they were huddled together and were absolutely butchered by the insurgents. It is said that 800 noses were cut off, and many soldiers were carried away and drowned in seeking to ford the stream. Two guns were also taken, which had not even been discharged. The Turks only admit some sixty killed and fifty wounded, but I think that, allowing for some exaggeration, the other account is nearer the truth. Ali Pasha does not believe the official report of the Turkish General. Your Excellency can imagine what an unfortunate effect this disaster has had at the present crisis.

Ali Pasha tells me that Baron Rodich seems to be making efforts in favour of pacification, but as yet without apparent success. The insurgents declare they will not lay down their arms. The Austrian Government have not yet closed the Bocche di Cattaro; nor have they done anything to prevent armed insurgents from passing freely into Dalmatia. The day I was in Ragusa some twenty of them came down to the town, fully armed, bought provisions, and departed without any hindrance to the insurgent camp at Grebzi. Still Ali Pasha says he does not despair, and that he does not think it possible for Baron Rodich to alter in a moment a state of affairs which has become habitual. Baron Rodich was not

at Ragusa when I was there. He has since gone to Cattaro, and is afterwards to have an interview with Ali Pasha. The Slav press is more active than ever in endeavouring to prevent pacification or submission, and I was told by my Italian colleague at Ragusa, that a certain Wessilitzki Bozidorovich, a Russian Agent, told Baron Gondolo, one of the heads of the Committee at Ragusa for succouring the destitute, that he was charged with instructions from St. Petersburgh, and furnished with any amount of money to push on the revolution. This Agent seems to be taking the lead in affairs now, which Consul Jonine seems to have given up; at all events, I was told that his action was much less evident than before.

Prince Nicolas promised Ali Pasha that he would withdraw all the Montenegrins who were with the insurgents, but he has not done so. Last night Danetsch Effendi telegraphed that two Senators had, however, arrived at Ragusa to counsel the insurgents to submit. Another, Matanovich, has gone to Vienna on some mission.

I hear from Ali Pasha that they are much better provisioned than formerly, and that they have some 2,400 transport animals, which number, though not sufficient, still enables them to bring up supplies. The military force in the Herzegovina has, however, suffered terribly from famine and sickness, and some 10,000 fresh troops are urgently required.

It is impossible that matters can go on smoothly unless the Chief of the army is subordinate to the civil Governor-General. The division of Bosnia and the Herzegovina also is a fatal difficulty.

The most insurmountable difficulty is the question of money. Instead of finding 2,000,000 piastres here Wassa Effendi found nothing, as I told your Excellency would probably be the case. However, 1,000,000 is expected here in a day or two, and another at a rather indefinite period. But even supposing the 2,000,000 to have been on the spot, it is nothing to what is required, and Wassa Effendi is terrified at the prospect before him. Suppose that in a month or six weeks pacification is effected, and the refugees begin to pour into Bosnia and the Herzegovina, their numbers—men, women, and children, according to a calculation made by the Ottoman Consul-General at Ragusa, on the best information is as follows:

Herzegovinians in Dalmatia	26,000
„ Montenegro	46,000
Bosniacs in Croatia	32,000
„ Montenegro	10,000
„ Servia	17,000
„ Dalmatia	6,000
„ Various other places	18,000
	156,000
Add to these Mussulmans and Christians who have not emigrated, but are destitute, and will have to be supported	150,000
Total	306,000

Say 300,000 per day, or 9,000,000 per month, to be supported for fourteen months —for now it is too late to calculate only up to next harvest—will give 126,000,000, which at only 2 piastres per day will require 2,000,000*l.* sterling! At the lowest computation it will be necessary that at least 500,000*l.* be ready in Bosnia and the Herzegovina as soon as the refugees begin to come back, as, if they are fed for a month or so, and then left destitute, the consequences will be awful, and the Turkish Government will be accused of the wilful infraction of its engagements. I have said nothing about the expenses of repairing houses and furnishing them with seed for cultivation next year. Where is this money to be found? I believe it could only be obtained from the Treasury of the Sultan, and I do not believe there is a single Turkish Minister who dares to inform His Majesty of the real facts of the case.

Insurgent bands formed in Dalmatia under the command of Ljubibratics and Yassich have lately attacked Liubushky on the right side of the Narenta. They were repulsed and Ljubibratics and one or two others arrested by the Austrian authorities, which gave rise to violent demonstrations of resentment on the part of the Slavs in Dalmatia. The damage to property at Liubushky is stated at nearly 20,000 ducats, but this is perhaps exaggerated.

Ali Pasha thinks well of my intention of immediately proceeding to Serajevo, and says nothing of importance can be done here for the next fifteen days. In case of need he will telegraph to me. I therefore leave this early to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 99.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, March* 25, 1876.

ALI PASHA and Vassa Effendi will arrive in Ragusa to-morrow morning from Mostar to confer with Baron Rodich.

Mr. Holmes writes to me that at Mostar the expense of maintaining for fourteen months the returned refugees and the rest of the inhabitants of the Herzegovina is calculated at 2,000,000*l.* Turkish. But Danetsch Effendi, the Turkish Consul-General here, says that this is an excessive estimate, and that the calculation he made here with Vassa Effendi is as follows:—300,000 souls at 1 piastre a day, equal to 300,000 piastres—that is, by month, equal to 9,000,000 piastres, and for fourteen months, equal to 122,000,000 piastres, or (the Turkish pound at 110 piastres) 1,100,000*l.*; deduct children in arms, and mortality 101,000, leaving total expense 1,000,000*l.*

In this calculation each adult would receive 40 paras a day (1 piastre), while the Austrian Government allows them 60 paras; but it is presumed that the refugees would easily procure themselves vegetables, fruit, milk, and cheese, which would more than compensate the difference.

The allowance at the rate of 40 paras would supply bread for each adult equal to a soldier's ration, and for each child half a ration.

If the Mostar estimate be excessive, I can't help thinking that that of Danetsch Effendi errs in the other direction.

The Envoys sent recently from Montenegro to Grahovo in the interests of peace do not appear to have effected much, but such a result was of course foreseen at Cettigné.

Moukhtar Pasha's attempt to send provisions to the garrison at Niksich has been unsuccessful, the troops having been compelled to retire before the insurgents, when they reached the Duga Pass. Their loss is said to have been 160 men. The garrison at Niksich is reported to be in great straits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 100.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 28, 1876.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW informed me to-day, in reply to my inquiry as to the progress of the negotiations of General Rodich, that the proposed armistice had not been agreed to, owing to the rejection by the Porte of the conditions required by the insurgents in regard to the provisioning of Nicksich.

Moukhtar Pasha had, consequently, marched to the relief of that fortress, and having been attacked by the insurgents in a defile, had been repulsed.

The Prince appeared less sanguine than heretofore of a successful issue to these negotiations, not from any want of energy or goodwill on the part of those charged with them, but from the utter prostration of Turkey. The Porte had no money, no means for re-establishing the refugees in their homes, and no means of affording them sufficient military protection to induce them to return. There were, besides, no Administrators, civil or military, competent for the duties which they were called upon to perform.

"I can say sincerely," said the Prince, "that we wish to maintain the Turkish Empire. It is our object and interest to do so, but we cannot struggle against destiny, and although we have used all our diplomatic efforts for the pacification of the insurgent provinces, we have no means of remedying the internal decay of the Empire."

His Highness said that Austria had done, and was doing, all that was humanly possible in the sense of conciliation and pacification. In conjunction with Russia, Austria had restrained both Servia and Montenegro, and they had received satisfactory assurances from the Princes of both States of their conforming to the wishes and policy of the European Powers.

In regard to Servia, Prince Gortchakow stated that their interest was to support Prince Milan against the "Omladina" and the violent revolutionary party who were plotting his overthrow.

He had lately drawn the attention of the Austrian Cabinet to the secret workings of this party, not only in Servia, but in the adjoining Austrian Provinces, as also to the

intrigues of Kara Georgewitch and his followers. His Highness had recommended that these revolutionary proceedings and elements should be carefully watched, and that they should be put down with a strong hand.

In observing to his Highness that the want of financial means appeared to be of some moment in regard to the return of the refugees to their homes, I inquired whether any communication had taken place with the Austrian Cabinet on this subject. The Prince replied that no proposal relating to the financial part of the question had been made by Count Andrassy; but he said, very decidedly, that no financial assistance to Turkey would be granted by Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 101.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 3.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 28, 1876.*

AFTER leaving Prince Gortchakow this morning, he called me back to communicate to me a telegram he had just received from Vienna, dated this morning, with intelligence from Ragusa, dated yesterday, which stated that Ali Pasha, Mouktar Pasha, and Vagou Effendi, through the mediation of General Rodich with the insurgent Chiefs, had come to an agreement that there should be a suspension of hostilities during the period of their conferences.

Prince Gortchakow appeared to be satisfied with this information, and to hope that it may lead to a further understanding between the conflicting parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 102.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, March 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed on the 23rd instant to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting advice given to the Servian Minister not to delay answering the Austrian demands.

I have, &c
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 102.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, March 23, 1876.*

ONE week elapses to-day since Prince Wrede had his last audience with the Prince of Servia, to remonstrate with His Highness on the ambiguity of the attitude of his Government, and also to warn him earnestly that he was expected to give assurances within a short delay, which might facilitate the pacific mission undertaken by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

Circumstances, to which I need not refer here, had rendered the mission of Prince Wrede extremely delicate and difficult, and even its success uncertain; and it was very much to be feared, on the other hand, that the Cabinet of Vienna might, whilst the Servians thought themselves particularly ill-used by Austria, take offence at the way in which the Servian Government had met its representations, and at the delay which it had allowed to interpose without giving any reply.

Having called this morning on the Servian Foreign Minister here, M. Pavlovitch, I took that opportunity to impress upon him that, in my opinion, it was highly desirable that the Servian Government should put an end to this most unsatisfactory state of things, and should at once give the Austro-Hungarian Representative a reply removing the suspicions which might attach to their silence.

M. Pavlovitch led me to expect that the Government would send in a satisfactory answer very shortly, but did not explain the cause of the delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 103.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, March 30, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch addressed to Sir Henry Elliot on the 27th instant, reporting the observations made to the Servian Foreign Minister by me, with respect to the intended convocation of the Servian militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, March 27, 1876.*

I CALLED this afternoon on the Servian Foreign Minister, M. Pavlovitch, and when talking to him of the answer he had given to Prince Wrede, I said that it was to be regretted if his Government should still adhere to their plan of calling out the militia for exercise just at this time; I told him that the assembling of large bodies of armed men in various parts of the country would be sure to give rise to misinterpretation, cause alarm, and besides the political arguments which suggested themselves to my mind, I pointed out to him that Servia might suffer grievously for every false or ill-considered step she took at this juncture, in her economical situation.

The trading profits of the community of Belgrade, and of the other small towns of Servia, are derived almost exclusively from goods obtained on credit from Austria, Germany, or England, and resold into the interior or to Turkey; but the rumours of war have put a stop to credit, and as there is no capital available, financial disasters might follow in the track of that prolonged state of uncertainty. Surely it was the interest of the Government to remove all apprehension on that score.

Moreover, the country population might be alarmed to such an extent as to cause a diminution in the quantities of the acres sown by the farmers in spring, and thus affect unfavourably the production of next harvest.

The Minister promised to take a note of my friendly remarks, and to submit them to the Prince and to his colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 104.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, March 24, 1876.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW received this morning a copy of the last message sent by the Emperor of Russia to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro.

He read the communication to me, and its terms were certainly stringent.

The Emperor expressed the surprise and regret with which, after the assurances he had been receiving from the two Princes for the last five months of their determination to observe a pacific and neutral attitude, he had learnt that they were now concerting together with a view to contingencies which the great Powers had resolved should not take place.

He therefore again called upon them to desist from the course upon which they appeared to be entering, and he concluded by warning them in very distinct language that

their future relations with him would depend upon the answer that he received to his present message.

No. 105.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 27, 1876.*

MR. WHITE reported this morning the satisfactory assurances and explanations given by Prince Milan to the Austro-Hungarian Consul-General.

Count Zichy yesterday communicated to the Porte the substance of the language by which his Highness had assured Prince Wrede that he had no hostile designs against Turkey, and that the pretended military preparations of the Principality were no more than what was necessary for the maintenance of the War Department in its ordinary state of efficiency.

The transparent inaccuracy of this explanation in the face of the efforts which have been made to purchase arms and horses requires no comment, and the Prince's assurances of his pacific intentions are equally open to doubt.

At the very moment when they were being made known to Raschid Pasha from the Austrian Embassy a telegram was received at the Porte stating that there had been a complete organisation of small bands of Servians on the frontier between Novi-Bazaar and Vischegrad which had passed into Bosnia at different points, killing many villagers and pillaging the country.

These accounts will probably be found as usual to be exaggerated, but Raschid Pasha says that there cannot be any doubt that what is going on on the frontier is greatly at variance with the assurances given by the Prince.

I have, &c.
Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 106.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1876.*

AN arrangement has been come to at Ragusa between the Turkish Commissioner-in-chief and General Rodich, by which hostilities will be suspended for a period, it is believed, of twelve days.

General Ignatiew asserts that this armistice is due to the intervention of the Prince of Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 107.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 28, 1876.*

I COMMUNICATED to Raschid Pasha the remarks contained in Mr. Acting Consul Freeman's despatch of the 2nd instant, respecting the minaret about to be added to the chief Mosque of Bosnia-Seraï.

His Excellency states that the Mussulman population of Bosna-Seraï had long complained that the steeple of the Christian Church standing near their Mosque was higher than the minaret.

Before granting the permission to put up bells in the churches, which is now about to be granted, and which may create some soreness on the part of a portion of the Mussulmans, the Government considered it prudent to authorize the erection of a minaret, which should be higher than the steeple.

The Porte is not, I think to be blamed for endeavouring to diminish the irritation which the ringing of the bells may cause in certain localities, and especially in those

where, from their vicinity to a Mosque, they are likely to drown the voice of the Muezzin calling the Mussulmans to prayers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 108.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 28, 1876.

AMONG the various reforms needed in this country, none has been so universally called for as that relating to the administration of justice, and your Lordship has been made acquainted with the assurances of the Grand Vizier of his determination to carry it out.

One of the chief causes of the prevailing corruption has been the insufficiency of the salaries assigned to the judges, many of whom do not receive as much as I give to my coachman, and even these insufficient salaries are not paid with regularity, but are allowed to run many months into arrear.

Men of integrity and character will not accept the posts, which consequently fall into the hands of those who know that it will be easy for them to cover the insufficiency of their salaries by illicit gains.

That this is a common practice is so notorious that it is with regret that I have to inform your Lordship that while the professions of the Government have been of a determination to raise the administration of justice, its measures seem calculated to further debase it.

The already paltry salaries have been reduced to a scale which honest and competent men can hardly be expected to accept.

The financial embarrassments cannot be fairly alleged in attenuation of this unfortunate resolution, for I am assured that sufficient salaries for the judges and officers of the courts could be provided out of the legitimate fees; but if upon investigation it were found that these are insufficient for the purpose, I am satisfied that no difficulty would be made, on behalf at least of foreign subjects, to their being raised, upon the condition that the proceeds were to be devoted to the payment of the judges and other officers of the courts.

Such fees cannot be regarded as a legitimate source of general revenue, but they have latterly been made over to the Minister of Finance, who has allowed the judges to remain without pay.

Raschid Pasha, to whom I have represented this matter strongly, has promised to bring it under the consideration of the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 109.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, March* 28, 1876.

AT an interview which I had with Ali Pasha this morning his Excellency told me that, in his discussion yesterday with Baron Rodich, he had insisted upon the fact that Austria was pledged to use every means, coercive if necessary, to make the Herzegovinian refugees return to their homes; and further, to co-operate with the Porte in every way compatible with her position as a friendly Power, in the suppression of the insurrection.

Baron Rodich seems to have argued that, as far as the refugees were concerned, they showed no disposition to return without something more positive in the way of guarantees for the future than had yet been offered to them; and that he did not see how they could be allowed to starve if they persisted in their present disposition. With regard to the insurgents, Baron Rodich said that the authorities had done and would continue to do all that is incumbent upon them to prevent aid being furnished through or from Austrian territory.

Ali Pasha asked Baron Rodich if he were aware that at Stagno 500 families had signed a declaration of their willingness to return, and had handed the document to the

Government Commissary. Baron Rodich professed his ignorance of the fact, and his pleasure at hearing of it.

The Conference between the Austrian and the Turkish Governors does not seem thus far to have been productive of any good result, nor does Ali Pasha appear to think that it will lead to any.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 110.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, March 28, 1876.*

MOUKTAR PASHA, Commander-in-chief in the Herzegovina, is holding daily conferences with Baron Rodich, on the means of arranging with the insurgents a suspension of hostilities.

The Austrians seem to think that the Turks are treating the question from quite an erroneous point of view, and that, instead of talking as if they had won a succession of victories, they should be as moderate in their language as befits their want of success in recent military operations.

The difficulty seems to consist chiefly in the pretension of the Turks to have the right of sending provisions into Niksich during the truce, to which the insurgents will not consent. It would appear that Niksich is now receiving small occasional supplies of provisions from Montenegro, where it is not desired that such a catastrophe should be allowed to happen as the fall of a frontier town from starvation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 111.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 7.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March 31, 1876.*

I UNDERSTAND that General Mollinary has been as unsuccessful as General Rodich in inducing the refugees to return into Turkey, and that the few who have been induced or driven to cross into Bosnia, have, instead of repairing to their villages, fled to the woods with the object of remaining there until, as they think, hostilities on a larger scale shall begin with the return of spring.

The number of the refugees on the Hungarian frontier is stated at 40,000 to 50,000, for the relief of whom, and those in Dalmatia, it is considered that in addition to the million of guldens mentioned by M. Tiza, another million will have been expended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 112.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 7.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, March 31, 1876.*

IN the House of Deputies, on the 29th, M. Tisza, replying to an interpellation respecting a forced return of the refugees, referred to his previous answer on the 11th instant, and added that "the circumstance that refugees were at the time received hospitably when fleeing from a menacing danger cannot oblige a State to continue the great sacrifices of such hospitality, when the refugees can return to their homes."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 113.

Mr. White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9.)*

My Lord, *Belgrade, April* 8, 1876.

AN opinion is gaining ground here that Servia is not sincere in her assurances, and that she intends to take an early opportunity of openly siding with the insurgents.

It is true that the militia have not yet been actually called out, but, should General Rodich fail in his negotiations, there are reasons to fear some hostile movement.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 114.

Consul Taylor to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, March* 28, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward two copies of a prospectus that has been issued by the Slav party here for an Agricultural Association to cultivate the Herzegovina, and to employ the refugees from Turkey who are now in destitution here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. G. TAYLOR.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Prospectus.

DERRIERE la langue de terre qui forme la territoire de Raguse, situé sur le versant oriental de la Mer Adriatique, s'étend l'Herzégovine Ottomane. Ce pays renferme des plaines très fertiles, des vallées, de beaux cours d'eau, des fôrets et probablement de riches mines qui n'ont, jusqu'à présent, jamais été explorées, le tout représentant une superficie de 220 milles carrés.

Les mauvaises conditions dans lesquelles, par le passé, était soumis ce pays, le peu de sécurité qui y régnait, le dépeuplèrent peu à peu et le rendirent en conséquence complétement mort à toute espèce d'industrie.

Une ère nouvelle semble se préparer, vu l'interet que prend en ce moment l'Europe entière en sa faveur, et tout fait présager un avenir meilleur et plus normal.

L'excessive irrégularité dans les relations entre les Musulmans propriétaires et les Chrétiens travailleurs des terres a été une des plus grandes plaies et un des malheurs les plus sensibles de cette partie de la Péninsule des Balkans; et ce fut la principale cause du soulèvement actuel.

Si donc la propriété foncière passait en des mains plus intelligentes, il y a toute probabilité que ce serait trancher beaucoup de difficultés qui, pour le moment, s'opposent à l'aplanissement des questions pendantes. Du reste le nouvel acquéreur ainsi que le pays y trouveraient bénéfices et avantages.

Ce ne serait pas le premier exemple que la spéculation, tout en trouvant son profit ainsi que le pays, serait venue à l'aide de la civilisation.

Le moment serait certainement propice pour se faire céder par les anciens propriétaires leurs droits à de bonnes conditions, vu que les terres sont en chaumage, par l'abandon des paysans qui ont pris les armes, afin d'arriver à un changement dans leur position respective.

Il semble donc naturel que l'esprit d'association qui a obtenu partout de si merveilleux résultats, doive tirer profit de cette situation. En conséquence, convaincus que de telles vues pourront être partagées par d'autres personnes auxquelles on fait appel, les soussignés pensèrent à se constituer en un Comité promoteur d'une association agricole, industrielle Balkanique ayant pour but d'acquérir des terres en Herzégovine. Les conditions préliminaires sont les suivants :—

1. Il serait émis le nombre de 10,000 actions.
2. Les actions sociales seraient chacune de 100 fr.
3. La société entrerait en fonctions aussitôt qu'on aurait obtenu un nombre d'actions de 2,500.

* The substance of this despatch was telegraphed.

4. Une fois obtenu le nombre d'actions cité dans l'Article 3, les soussignés s'assembleraient à Raguse dans un jour fixé par les promoteurs et annoncé par les journaux les plus répandus en Europe, afin de traiter la question, rédiger les statuts de la société, et élire un comité définitif chargé de la direction de la société. Les souscripteurs pourront dans ce cas se faire représenter par des mandataires spéciaux et sociétaires eux-mêmes.

5. Celui qui signe le présent acte est responsable de l'acquisition des actions souscrites par lui.

6. Cette responsabilité cesse si dans six mois, à partir d'aujourd'hui, on n'obtient pas le nombre d'actions prevu par l'Article 3.

7. Les signataires du présent acte donneront au moment de signer le vingtième des actions qu'ils auront souscrites; cette somme sera remise à un des promoteurs sous leur solidaire responsabilité ou à un banquier commissionné par eux.

8. Cette somme anticipée sera restituée à son propriétaire dans le cas où on n'aurait pu arriver au nombre d'actions prévu par l'Article 3 et dans le terme prévu par l'Article 6, sauf à retenir au prorata de chacun la somme des dépenses faites en but du projet présent.

Raguse, le 27 *Mars*, 1876.

(Signé) MARINO NICOLO DI GIORGI.
MATTEO LUCIANO CONTE DI POZZA.

(Translation.)

BEHIND the tongue of land forming the Ragusan territory, situated on the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea, lies Ottoman Herzegovina. This country contains very fertile plains, valleys, fine water-courses, forests, and probably rich mines, which have never hitherto been examined, the whole representing a surface of 220,000 square miles.

The wretched condition of this country in past ages, the want of security prevalent there, depopulated it by degrees, and rendered it in consequence dead to all kinds of industry.

A new era seems to be in preparation, in view of the interest now felt in its favour by all Europe, and everything presages a better and more natural state of affairs for the future.

The excessive irregularity existing in the relations between the Mussulman owners and the Christian agricultural labourers has been one of the greatest evils and one of the most marked misfortunes of this part of the Balkan Peninsula; and this was the principal cause of the present rising.

If, then, the real property were to pass into more intelligent hands, there is every probability that thus many of the difficulties which for the moment prevent the settlement of the pending questions would be removed. Moreover, the new proprietor as well as the country would by this means derive benefit and advantage.

This would not be the first instance in which speculation, whilst making profit for itself as well as for the country, has come to the help of civilization.

The moment would certainly be propitious to induce the former proprietors to yield their rights on good terms, since the lands are lying fallow, owing to the peasants having taken up arms, so as to arrive at a change in their respective positions.

It seems therefore natural that the spirit of association which has everywhere obtained such remarkable results, ought to profit by this situation. Convinced, therefore, that these views may be shared by other people to whom they have appealed, the Undersigned have determined to form themselves into a Committee, with the object of promoting an Agricultural Industrial Association of the Balkan, with the view of acquiring land in the Herzegovina. The preliminary conditions are the following :—

1. The number of 10,000 shares will be issued.

2. The shares shall be each of the value of 100 fr.

3. The Society will begin its operations as soon as the number of 2,500 shares have been subscribed.

4. As soon as the number of shares mentioned in Article 3 shall have been obtained, the Undersigned shall assemble at Ragusa on a day fixed by the promoters, and advertised by the papers of the largest European circulation, in order to consult on the question, draw up the Rules of the Society, and elect a definitive Committee charged with its direction. The subscribers may in this case be represented by proxies, themselves members.

5. Whoever signs this document is responsible for the acquisition of the shares subscribed for by him.

6. This responsibility ceases if, after six months from this day's date, the number of shares provided by Article 3 be not obtained.

7. The signers of the present document will pay, at the moment of signing, the twentieth part of the shares which they shall have subscribed. This sum shall be remitted to one of the promoters on their joint responsibility, or to a banker commissioned by them.

8.. This sum paid in advance shall be restored to its owner in case that the shares shall not have reached the number provided by Article 3, and within the period provided by Article 6, save that the pro rata sum of the expenses incurred for this project will be kept back from each.

Ragusa, March 27, 1876.

(Signed) MARINO NICOLO DI GIORGI.
MATTEO LUCIANO CONTI DI POZZA.

No. 115.

Consul Taylor to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 10.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, March* 30, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a despatch of the 29th of March, which I have addressed to Sir A. Buchanan, relative to Moukhtar and Ali Pashas' late visit here. Both these officers have since returned to Mostar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. TAYLOR.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Consul Taylor to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Ragusa, March* 29, 1876.

THE Turkish Military Commander-in-chief in Bosnia, Moukhtar Pasha, together with Ali Pasha, Civil Commissioner for the pacification of the disturbed Ottoman districts in this neighbourhood, arrived here two days ago. Their mission was to arrange matters with the Austrian authorities to facilitate the return of the Christian refugees from Turkish territory, who recently fled for a living and protection here and in this neighbourhood. Meantime, the Porte has sent large supplies of grain, at present stored at Gravosa, the port of Ragusa, to sustain the refugees who may be willing to return to their homes, and to provide seed for their spring sowings. But, as all the labour-cattle used for ploughing have been destroyed, it is difficult to understand how the peasants will be able to utilize those gifts, which it is supposed they will be obliged to consume to sustain life before the proper seed-time commences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. TAYLOR.

No. 116.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 10.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, March* 30, 1876.

MOUKHTAR PASHA left Ragusa for Trebigné yesterday morning, and Ali Pasha started this morning for the same town.

From all that I can learn, the impression produced upon Baron Rodich by the two Pashas is that the Porte has no desire to conciliate the insurgents. Baron Rodich and General Jovanovics called on me yesterday, and said that the Proclamation issued by Wassa Effendi (of which I have not as yet the translation, having only seen it in the Slav text) contained no reference to guarantees, reforms, or anything else, except the clemency of the Sultan to those who submitted within four weeks, and the threat of confiscation of the property of those who did not. That, not only did the Pashas show no conciliatory spirit, but that a fresh massacre of seven Christians (three men and four women) had just taken place in the vicinity of Bilek, and a raid across the frontier near Trebigné had been committed within the week upon some sheep belonging to Austrian subjects, who had, however, beaten off the Turks, and saved their property. In the face of outrages such as

these, how could it be expected that any good could be done either with the refugees or the insurgents?

I saw Wassa Effendi shortly before this conversation, and he absolutely repudiated the idea that anyone had the right to ask the Porte for further guarantees, his argument being that the acceptance of Count Andrassy's note, and the Sultan's Proclamation of Amnesty, were guarantees enough; and that the Porte was entitled to claim that confidence should be reposed in the intention of the authorities to carry out the reforms, and fulfil the promises of succour for the returned insurgents and refugees. He declared, in the most solemn manner, that he himself would not retain his position as President of the Reform Commission for a day if he found that he was unable to act honestly in this sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 117.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, April 1, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th ultimo, in which mention is made of the Proclamation to the Insurgents and the Refugees of the Herzegovina issued here by Wassa Effendi, the President of the Commission of Reforms, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, the Slav text and an Italian version which Wassa Effendi has himself been so good as to make for me, together with a translation from that version by myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Notification.

IN seguito all'amnistia generale che Sua Maestà Imperiale il Sultano si è graziosamente degnata di concedere e far promulgare in favore degl'insorti dell'Erzegovina accordando quattro settimane di tempo a partire dal $\frac{12}{24}$ Marzo corrente, onde ognuno deponga le armi e rientri nel proprio paese.

Per ordine del Governo di Sua Maestà Imperiale si porta a publica conoscenza che tutti quelli che si sottometteranno, godranno non solamente dei benefizi già noti, ma saranno esentati eziandio per un anno del pagamento delle decime e per due anni da quello delle altre imposte legale; e che quelli che rimaranno ostinati à non volersi sottomettere e non profiteranno della clemenza Imperiale per rientrare, entro il termine fissato, nelle proprie case, non solamente saranno esclusi dalla participazione ai favori ed alla generosità sovrana, ma incorreranno inoltre la confisca delle loro terre e di loro beni, i quali saranno venduti pubblicamente ed il prodotto che se ne ricaverà sarà erogato in favore di quelli che si saranno conformati alla disposizione sovrana e che saranno ritornati nel proprio paese.

Il Presidente della Commissione delle Reforme,
(Signé) P. WASSA.

Ragusi, li $\frac{16}{28}$ *Marzo,* 1876.

(Translation.)

IN pursuance of the general amnesty which His Imperial Majesty the Sultan has been graciously pleased to grant and to cause to be promulgated in favour of the insurgents of the Herzegovina, allowing them four weeks commencing from the $\frac{12}{24}$th of the present month of March, during which every one may lay down his arms and return to his own country.

By order of the Government of His Imperial Majesty it is hereby announced that all those who shall so submit themselves shall enjoy not only the benefits above mentioned, but shall be moreover exempted for one year from the payment of tithes and for two years from that of the other legal imposts; and that those who shall remain obstinate in their refusal to submit themselves, and who will not profit by the Imperial clemency for the

purpose of returning to their homes within the time above fixed, shall not only be excluded from participating in these favours and in the Sovereign generosity, but shall incur in addition the confiscation of their lands and property, which shall be publicly sold, and the proceeds thereof assigned to those who shall have conformed to the Imperial will and shall have returned to their own country.

By the President of the Reform Commission,
(Signed) P. WASSA.

Ragusa, March $\frac{16}{28}$, 1876.

No. 118.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, April* 1, 1876.

I UNDERSTAND that Baron Rodich will have a conference with the insurgent Chiefs at Resina or Castelnuovo on or about the 4th instant.

I have heard that his Excellency has expressed his disapprobation of the tenor of Ali Pasha's Proclamation (of which I hope to be able to procure a copy and translation in time for the mail this afternoon), and that he thinks it will not only produce no good effect on the insurgents, but will even tend to make them recalcitrant on the subject of the pacification.

Wassa Effendi will not leave Ragusa until the 4th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 119.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, April* 1, 1876.

AT the last moment before the post closes I am able to transmit copy, and a very rough and hurried translation into French, of Ali Pasha's proclamation.

Your Lordship will observe that it is dated the 24th ultimo, but it has only been put into circulation yesterday, thus eliminating a week of the period of grace accorded to the insurgents.

Ali Pasha gave it to be understood that the text of the Proclamation had been sent to him from Constantinople, and that he was not responsible for it. It can hardly be said to be conciliatory, and the barest reference is made in it to the reforms which the Porte, in deference to the wishes of the great Powers, has consented to grant.

I fear it will not be accepted by the insurgents as a satisfactory manifesto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Proclamation.

(Traduction.)

SA Majesté notre illustre et gracieux Empereur et Souverain a donné l'ordre qu'on publie sa grâce et clémence à votre égard afin d'écarter le désordre où est tombé votre pays et que ses sujets soient sauvés de l'abîme où ils sont jetés par des promesses criminelles et mensongères de quelques rebelles.

Vous connaissez tous quelles mesures ont été prises de la part du Gouvernement Impérial au commencement de ces troubles et avec quelle justice on a agi pour que ni votre pays ni même un seul d'entre vous ne souffrit dommage ; mais en vain, car ceux qui cherchèrent la satisfaction de leur désir dans la valeur de votre pays, et ceux parmi vous qui suivirent ces discours donnèrent un autre sens à l'initiatif bienfaisant qu'avait pris le Gouvernement et y répondirent par les armes ; c'est ainsi qu'ils forcèrent le Gouvernement pour rétablir la paix à reprimer et à châtier.

Vous vîtes et comprîtes combien l'accomplissement de ce devoir a causé du sang versé depuis six ou sept mois, et que l'intention de ceux qui vous ont poussés aux désordres n'était point la tranquillité de votre patrie, mais plutôt ceci, de vous faire tomber en

diverses souffrances et en tirer leurs avantages; vous vous séparâtes de vos familles, de votre patrie, et de vos maisons, et ne trouvâtes que dommages et privations.

Notre illustre Empereur, attristé par cet état de choses dans son cœur Impérial, n'a pas seulement consenti à vous faire participer aux clauses du juste Firman, clauses qui suffisent pour donner de la sécurité et du bonheur à votre patrie et à tous ses habitants, pour compenser les pertes causées par les troubles, et pour réaliser encore quelques améliorati ns importantes et essentielles qui sont nécessaires dans votre patrie, et pour vous faire jouir ainsi des avantages légaux et y trouver le progrès; mais aussi a pardonné tout le crime de la désobéissance à tous ceux d'entre vous qui déposeront leurs armes et se soumettront en quatre semaines à compter du jour de cette proclamation. Il ne manquera pas de se donner la peine de prendre des mesures qui faciliteront et assureront votre sécurité et votre bien-être, ainsi que celui de vos familles, quand vous retournerez dans votre pays. Il est attendu que plusieurs d'entre vous apprécieront comme il le faut cette manifestation de la clémence souveraine; et s'il y a de ceux qui n'ont pas encore eu les yeux dessilliés, qu'ils verront aussi, et rentreront dans le droit chemin. Mais s'il se trouve de ceux qui ne savent pas être reconnaissants de tant de grâce souveraine, et persisteront obstinément dans la désobéissance, les troupes Impériales continueront à les reprimer. C'est pourquoi il vous est recommandé sincèrement de bien réfléchir à ceci: qu'il vous est nécessaire de montrer l'obéissance à votre Souverain légitime afin de réparer les torts dont vous vous êtes rendus coupables et de rétablir la paix dans votre patrie.

Le $\frac{12}{24}$ *Mars*, 1876.

Vali et Commissaire du Vilayet de l'Herzégovine,
(Signé) ALI.

(Translation.)

Proclamation.

HIS Majesty, our illustrious and gracious Emperor and Sovereign, has given orders to publish his grace and clemency towards you, so as to banish the disorder into which your country is fallen, and that his subjects may be saved from the abyss into which they have been cast by the criminal and lying promises of some few rebels.

You all know what measures were taken by the Imperial Government at the beginning of these disturbances and with what justice they have acted, so that neither your country nor any single one of you should suffer any loss; but in vain, for those who sought the accomplishment of their desire in the worth of your country, and those among you who followed these discourses gave another meaning to the well-intentioned initiative taken by the Government, and answered it at the point of the sword; it is thus that they compelled the Government, who were to re-establish peace, to repress and chastise them. You saw and you understood how the accomplishment of this duty has been the cause of blood being spilt for six or seven months, and that the intention of those who have incited you to these disturbances was not the tranquillity of your country, but rather to cause you various sufferings and to draw from them advantages for themselves; you separated yourselves from your families, from your country, from your homes, and you found nothing but losses and privations.

Our illustrious Emperor, saddened in his imperial heart by this state of things, has not only consented to make you participate in the clauses of that just Firman, clauses which suffice to give safety and happiness to your country and to all her inhabitants, to compensate losses caused by the disturbances, and to realise some further important and essential improvements which are necessary in your country, and to make you enjoy legal advantages and to find there improvement; but he has also pardoned of the crime of disobedience all those among you who will lay down their arms and who will submit within four weeks from the day of this Proclamation. He will not fail to take care that measures are taken which will facilitate and insure your safety and well-being, as well as that of your families, when you return to your country. It is expected that many of you will appreciate as you ought this manifestation of sovereign clemency; and if there be some among you whose eyes have not yet been opened, it is expected that they will likewise see, and return to the right path. But if there are found those who know not how to appreciate so much sovereign grace, and who will persist obstinately to disobey, the Imperial troops will continue to repress them. It is for this reason that you are advised in all sincerity to reflect on this point; that you must show obedience to your legitimate Sovereign, so as to repair the wrongs for which you have made yourselves responsible, and to re-establish peace in your country.

March $\frac{12}{24}$, 1876.

Vali and Commissioner of the Vilayet of Herzegovina,
(Signed) ALI.

No. 120.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, March 30, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, considering it of importance that I should visit this place with a view to ascertain personally the feelings of the authorities and principal people, and the actual state of affairs in Bosnia at the present moment, I obtained Sir Henry Elliot's permission to do so. I now inclose a copy of a despatch, of to-day's date, addressed to his Excellency, stating the result of my investigations during the past week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Bosna-Seraï, March 30, 1876.*

DURING the few days I have been here I have seen the authorities and most of the chief men of the place, and I have obtained a conviction that, in spite of all predictions to the contrary, the Christian inhabitants of the country will not rise in arms unless they are forced to do so by invasion from without. Up to the present moment there has been no insurrection in Bosnia, except on the frontiers, where it has been produced in this manner, and the future tranquillity of the country entirely depends on the conduct of Austria and Servia.

Among all classes, however, I find very great distrust of the power of the Porte, and even of its intention to properly carry out the promised reforms. Nothing has yet been done to give confidence to the Christians, and though there are many intelligent Mussulmans who are convinced of the propriety and necessity of a change, there is a large majority who understand neither, and will offer a stolid but passive resistance to all attempts to reform.

I have urged Haidar Effendi to commence his operations by giving permission to the Christians to use bells for their churches, as a measure which, perhaps above all others, will produce a favourable effect. As a matter of fact, the Christians have long enjoyed religious liberty, except in the matter of using bells; but whatever has been conceded to them seems of little account if this privilege is denied, which they appear to consider as the symbol of their religious liberty and the proof of its recognition. Were the use of bells allowed they would have nothing more to complain of in the matter of religious freedom, and would then begin to feel confidence in the good intentions of the Government. The more intelligent Mussulmans here seem to be quite disposed to concede the point, and Haidar Effendi himself promises to carry it out. There will at first, perhaps, be a show of opposition on the part of the ignorant and fanatic Moslems; but I am persuaded that, with a little firmness, Haidar Effendi will have no real difficulty. I have told him so, and have indicated the mode of procedure, and the nature of the arguments which I think most likely to overcome the opposition he may expect. The Commission over which he is to preside is not yet formed, but as soon as it is, he declares he will carry out this measure. The Christians also complain of the great difficulty they experience from the local authorities and the Mussulman population in building new churches, for which the permission of the Government has been obtained. The remedy for this, however, lies in the personal character and conduct of the Governor-General.

I find great confusion and want of confidence among the Mussulmans and Christians, occasioned by the extraordinary manner in which the Porte gives its orders regarding the promised reforms. The additional quarter of the "Aashi" was declared to be remitted, but soon after an order was received to collect it for this year, as this tax had been sold to the Multezims while the old system prevailed. People, however, say that, as the Government pretended to alleviate their taxation in their present distressed circumstances, they expected the Government would bear the loss and arrange with the farmers of the tax in consequence. The order also which had arrived here, stating that the "Bedel-i-Askerieh" was only henceforward to be paid by persons between the ages of twenty and forty, and also that the rate was reduced, was accompanied by an injunction that there should be no loss to the treasury. The authorities here tell me that this must be an absurdity committed by the Finance Department. The people, however, naturally attribute

it to bad faith on the part of the Government. The tax on sheep also was to be assessed in April, just before the animals went to their pasturages, but it has been demanded a month sooner; as people declare, just before the period when the greatest mortality takes place. This has been considered by all classes as a great grievance, and a violation of the promises of the Government. But it must be admitted that there is an excuse for this, as some times, in the case of an early spring like the present, many flocks of sheep are sent away before April, and the authorities would find it difficult to collect the tax if they waited till the animals were already among the mountain pasturages.

Before I arrived, neither the authorities nor the principal people seemed to have calculated the cost of receiving back, and maintaining, the people who have emigrated, and the destitute who are in the country. Now, they seem in some measure to realize the alarming prospect before them; they do not contradict the truth of the calculation, which I sent to your Excellency from Mostar, and admit that it will require nearly, if not quite, 2,000,000*l.* to face this difficulty. They hope the number of people to be supported may be exaggerated, and I allow that it may be, but in such a case it is better to be prepared for the worst.

I hear that a very large proportion of the country, in fact nearly all the Sandjaks bordering on the frontiers of Austria and Servia, remain uncultivated, and even in more tranquil parts, many of the poorer Beys, influenced by a general feeling of insecurity, are unwilling to advance the necessary seed to the Christian labourers on their farms; so that even admitting an approaching pacification, the state of the country is likely to be most deplorable for several years to come. Commerce is entirely at a stand-still. Many merchants have become bankrupts. No one will disburse a piastre beyond what is necessary for the bare personal support of his family. At this season there is usually great activity in building and repairing houses, but nothing of the kind is now to be seen; and carpenters, bricklayers, and indeed all other handicraft-men find no work and are in distress. This reacts on the affairs of small tradesmen, and there is thus already a grievous amount of anxiety and poverty among all classes.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, there are signs along the Austrian frontier of some action against insurrectionary bands, and their chiefs and abettors. I trust that this will become by degrees more and more pronounced. I hope also, and believe that, on my return to Mostar, I shall be able to announce that progress towards a more satisfactory state of affairs in Dalmatia is apparent, and an approaching pacification more probable. I leave this on the 1st April for Mostar, and feel that my short stay has been of great use in enabling me to form a just appreciation of the general state of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 121.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 3,* 1876.

I LEARN that the Porte has received information of the passage of considerable bands, said to be accompanied by two pieces of artillery, from Dalmatia and Croatia into the north-western districts of Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 122.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 12.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 7,* 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an article from the "Agence Russe" of this morning, referring to a previous article, and expressing its satisfaction that the regrettable incident therein referred to had not impeded the continuance of the negotiations with the insurgent Chiefs for the pacification of the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

The article then gives the condition on which the insurgent Chiefs would consent to return to their homes, which are as follows:—

(1). The withdrawal, or at least the concentration, of the Turkish troops at a given point, during the reinstatement of the refugees, in order to avoid any possible collision.

(2). Material proofs guaranteeing the execution by the Porte of its promises relative to the means of subsistence, and the reconstruction of the destroyed property of the Christians.

(3). The carrying out of the reinstatement of the refugees under the superintendence of an European Commission.

(4). The retention by the insurgents of their arms for their defence in case of unforeseen attack.

The article considers that these conditions, the 3rd condition of which will be the most difficult to obtain, form a proper basis for a serious and speedy pacification, and that it is desirable that the well-intentioned effort of Mahmoud Pasha should successfully carry out at Constantinople the combination which the European Powers will not fail to recommend by a common action, and which concerns not alone the interest of the peace in the East, but likewise the maintenance of the *status quo* in Turkey.

This article, as well as the previous one alluded to, although not strictly of an official character, doubtless emanates from an official source.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of April 7, 1876.

St. Pétersbourg, Jeudi soir, le $\frac{25 \text{ Mars}}{6 \text{ Avril}}$, 1876.

LES regrettables nouvelles que nous avons été obligé d'enregistrer avant-hier, et constatant une recrudescence de fanatisme du côté des Turcs, de terreur du côté des réfugiés et de représailles du côté des insurgés, n'ont pas empêché,—nous sommes heureux de le constater,—les négociations de se poursuivre. Grâce à l'activité déployée par les représentants locaux des Puissances, les chefs insurgés Sotchitza, Zimonitch, Voukalovitch, Peïko, et cinquante autres sont arrivés à Suthorina. Le Baron de Rodich les attendait à Castelnuovo depuis deux jours. L'entrevue a dû avoir lieu aujourd'hui, même sur le territoire Herzégovinien. On connaît les conditions auxquelles les insurgés consentent à réintégrer leurs foyers. Elles sont au nombre de quatre. Ce sont: 1, l'éloignement ou, tout au moins, la concentration des troupes Turques sur un point isolé, pendant le rapatriement, afin d'éviter toute collision; 2, des preuves matérielles garantissant l'exécution par la Porte de ses promesses relatives aux subsistances et à la reconstruction des propriétés dévastées des Chrétiens; 3, l'exécution du rapatriement sous la surveillance d'une Commission Européenne; et, 4, la conservation des armes aux insurgés pour leur propre défense en cas d'attaque imprévue.

Ces conditions, dont la troisième sera peut-être la plus difficile à obtenir, constituent certainement des éléments propres à servir de base à une sérieuse et prompte pacification. Il est très à désirer que les efforts si bien intentionnés de Mahmoud Pacha parviennent à faire triompher à Constantinople la combinaison que les Cabinets ne manqueront pas d'y recommander de toute leur autorité commune et dans laquelle gît, non seulement l'intérêt de la paix en Orient, mais encore celui du *statu quo* en Turquie.

(Translation.)

St. Petersburgh, Thursday evening, $\frac{\text{March } 25}{\text{April } 6}$, 1876.

THE sad news which we were forced to record the day before yesterday, establishing the fact that the fanaticism of the Turks has again displayed itself, that the terror of the refugees has increased, and that reprisals on the side of the insurgents have been renewed, have not hindered, we rejoice to declare, the continuance of the negotiations. Thanks to the activity displayed by those Representatives of the Powers who are on the spot, the insurgent chiefs Sotchitza, Zimonitch, Voukalovitch, Peïko, and fifty others, have arrived at Suttorina. Baron Rodich had been waiting for them at Castelnuovo for two days. The interview was to have taken place to-day on Herzegovinian territory. The conditions on which the insurgents consent to return to their homes are well known. They are four in number:—

1. That during the return of the refugees the Turkish troops should be withdrawn, or, at least, concentrated at a single place, in order to avoid all risk of collision.

2. Material proofs, affording a guarantee for the carrying out by the Porte of its promises relative to the means of subsistence to be afforded, and to the rebuilding of the houses, &c. ("propriétés") of the Christians that have been laid waste.

3. That the refugees shall return to their homes under the superintendence of a European Commission.

4. That the insurgents shall retain their arms for self defence in the event of an unforeseen attack.

These conditions, of which the third will probably be the hardest to obtain, certainly constitute elements that might serve as a basis for a real and speedy pacification. It is most desirable that the well-intentioned efforts of Mahmoud Pasha at Constantinople should succeed in bringing about the combination that will infallibly be recommended by the Cabinets with all their joint authority, which concerns not only the interests of peace in the East, but also the maintenance of the *statu quo* in Turkey.

No. 123.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 12.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, April* 9, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegrams of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne" of last night, containing a report of General Rodich's interview with the insurgents near Castel Nuovo, and the conditions on which they have offered to lay down their arms.

The result of the Conference has doubtless caused disappointment here.

It may, however, still be hoped that, if the inadmissible pretentions of the insurgents are met by measures here which will convince them and the Prince of Montenegro that the Government of the Emperor is determined that Dalmatia shall no longer be used as a base for military operations, they may reconsider their demands, and accept the terms which the Porte is willing to grant them.

Should other counsels prevail, and the insurrection be continued, even in the doubtful case of Servia and Montenegro remaining neutral, the policy of the present Grand Vizier will have signally failed, and it may be feared that the Turkish Government will come to consider that all the resources of the country, without any regard to foreign creditors, should be devoted to the maintenance of Mussulman supremacy in the European Provinces of the Empire, as the only means of prolonging its existence.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Extract from the "Correspondance Autrichienne" of April 8, 1876.

ON écrit de Raguse 7 Avril:—"Le Feldzeugmestre Baron Rodich, cédant aux prières des insurgés réunis à la Suttorina, s'est rendu au lieu de l'assemblée, le 6 courant, dans l'après-midi, accompagné du Général Jovanovich, de plusieurs officiers d'Etat Major et aides-de-camp. Les chefs des insurgés l'attendaient dans une petite maison. Après avoir donné lecture des réformes et concessions consenties par la Porte, le Baron Rodich a engagé vivement les chefs assemblés à accepter ces propositions et à déposer les armes. Cette allocution n'est pas restée évidemment sans effet sur les chefs du soulèvement, qui ont sollicité et obtenu du Baron Rodich un délai de douze heures pour délibérer. Or, d'après un télégramme de Castelnuovo 7 Avril, les chefs de l'insurrection ont fait connaître le 7 courant au Baron Rodich les conditions qu'ils mettent à la cessation définitive des hostilités. Ils demandent un tiers des biens-fonds des Begs de Bosnie et d'Herzégovine, la réédification des églises et des maisons; des semences, du bétail, des instruments aratoires; la construction de greniers approvisionnés pour un an, l'exemption de la dîme pendant trois ans; le retrait des troupes régulières de Bosnie et d'Herzégovine à la réserve de petits détachements devant former garnison à Niksitch, Stolac, Totsa, Mostar, Trebigné, et Plevalje, partout où des Agents Russes et Autrichiens auraient leur résidence et exerceraient des pouvoirs de contrôle; enfin la garantie de la Convention de la part des Grandes Puissances et comme condition dernière le désarmement préalable de la population Turque indigène."

(Translation.)

LETTERS from Ragusa of the 7th April state that Field-Marshall Baron Rodich, yielding to the entreaties of the insurgents collected at Suttorina, repaired to the place of meeting on the afternoon of the 6th instant, accompanied by General Jovanovich, several

staff-officers and aides-de-camp. The insurgent Chiefs awaited his arrival in a small house. After having read the reforms and concessions agreed to by the Porte, Baron Rodich warmly urged the assembled Chiefs to accept these proposals and to lay aside their arms. This address evidently produced an effect on the chiefs of the insurrection, who asked for and obtained from Baron Rodich a delay of twelve hours for deliberation. Thus, according to a telegram from Castelnuovo of the 7th April, the insurgent chiefs made known to Baron Rodich on the 7th instant the conditions on which they are willing to suspend hostilities altogether. They ask for a third of the landed property of the Begs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the rebuilding of the churches and houses, indemnity for the loss of their crops, their cattle, and agricultural implements; the erection of granaries provisioned for one year; exemption from tithes for three years; withdrawal of regular troops from Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the exception of small detachments to garrison Nichsich, Stolac, Totsa, Mostar, Trebinje, and Plevalje, and all places in which Russian and Austrian Agents may reside and exercise a controlling power; moreover, that the Great Powers should guarantee this Convention, and, lastly, the preliminary disarming of the native Turkish population.

No. 124.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 13, 1876.

WITH reference to the telegram from Sir A. Buchanan, which I forwarded to your Excellency this day,† I authorize your Excellency to act in concert with Count Zichy in the endeavour to obtain a prolongation of the suspension of hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 125.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 3, 1876.

IT appears that the Porte has received intelligence of the revictualling of the Fort of Nicksich.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 126.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

(Extract.) *Pera, April* 3, 1876.

UPON calling upon Raschid Pasha this morning I found him much discouraged by the last accounts received from Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and his anxiety was not solely caused by the appearance of a revival or extension of the insurrection.

Raschid Pasha is convinced that whatever professions the Prince of Montenegro may make, he will, in reality, continue to encourage the chiefs of the insurgents to maintain the struggle until he is satisfied by concessions made to him by the Porte.

No. 127.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 3, 1876.

THE Governor-General of Bosnia reports to the Porte that the military preparations in Servia along the Turkish frontier are now being carried on more openly than has ever before been the case.

* The substance of this despatch was telegraphed.
† For substance see No. 139.

The militia is armed, and it is stated that depôts of arms have been formed for distribution to the christians in Bosnia, among whom Servian emissaries are busy, directing them to prepare to rise about Easter, and warning them that they will not be spared if they do not join in the movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 128.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 4, 1876.*

A TELEGRAM from the Governor-General of Bosnia, which has been read to me by Raschid Pasha, gives a very alarming account of the state of things in that province.

Armed bands are passing freely from the Austrian territory, and there are symptoms indicating a probable insurrection of the populations along the rivers Save and Una.

The Governor-General states that he has been unable to re-establish the line of telegraph along the Save, as the workmen are continually fired at from the Austrian bank of the river, and that his remonstrances addressed to the Austrian authorities have been unattended to.

Along the whole of the Servian frontier from Vishegrad, a distance of several hundred miles, preparations for incursions on an extended scale appear to be making, and large reinforcements of troops are urgently called for.

Two batallions have already been ordered from Crete, and others will be despatched as quickly as possible, but, through sickness and privation, the efficient force in the insurgent provinces is, as far as I can gather, at a very low ebb, and, from the commencement of the insurrection, there has never been a moment in which affairs looked so serious as they do just now.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 129.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, April 6, 1876.*

Mr. Agent and Consul-General White has mentioned a belief entertained at Belgrade that General Ignatiew was endeavouring to obtain from the Porte some concessions in favour of Servia.

There is, I believe, no ground for this report, and I hardly even know what concession could be suggested, for, except as regards the insignificant question of Little Zvornik, there is no matter at issue between the Porte and the Principality.

No. 130.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 7, 1876.*

THE inclosed Report from Mr. Sandison of the account received at the Porte from Haidar Effendi gives a very serious aspect to the state of affairs in Bosnia.

It is evident that the Austro-Hungarian Government have failed lamentably in their engagement to guard their own frontier, and by means of well-armed bands coming from their territory, a formidable insurrection has been excited in districts which have hitherto remained quiet.

Although the news received from the Herzegovina is good and gave hopes of a pacification, it would be too much to expect that the movement in Bosnia should not produce its effect in the districts which have so long been in insurrection.

The Turkish Ministers who had guaranteed to the Sultan the faithful execution by Austria of the engagements taken towards them are likely to find their position hardly tenable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Constantinople, April* 6, 1876.

A FURTHER telegram reached the Porte to-day from Haidar Effendi, giving the particulars of the insurrection in Bosnia. Bands of insurgents, it is stated, have crossed the Austro-Hungarian frontier into Turkish territory at three different points between Costinitza and Graboch, carrying devastation over a considerable extent of country. One band has entered Krupa by way of Novin, laying siege to the town of Maden and threatening the inhabitants with total destruction if they refused to join the insurrectionary movement. A second band, provided with two field-pieces, has entered the district of Petrovatch, and has taken possession of the town of Objak, the Christian population thereof joining the insurgents. A third band, having crossed the frontier at Basac on the Save, has taken possession of Pernavam, the Christian population of which has also made common cause with the insurgents.

The telegram goes on to say that the whole of Turkish Croatia may be looked upon as being in a state of insurrection, and that whilst the insurgents are amply provided with breech-loaders supplied by the Revolutionary Committees organized on Austrian territory, the Turkish population is excessively ill-armed with flint guns, which places them at a disadvantage in presence of the enemy.

There being a pressing necessity for troops to check the further progress of the insurrectionary movement, all the available forces from Travnik and Banialuka, consisting of one battalion and a half are already in motion, accompanied by a body of Bashi-Bazouks, independently of which two more battalions are marching on from Yéni Bazan.

Haidar Effendi seems to think that the insurrectionary movement might be put down, provided the insurgent bands receive no help and reinforcements through the organized Revolutionary Committees existing in Servia and on Austrian territory.

The news, on the other hand, from the Herzegovina is much more reassuring, so much so that Ali Pasha appears to be very hopeful as to the early re-establishment of tranquillity in that quarter. But Raschid Pasha considers the insurrection in Bosnia a great deal too serious to justify Ali Pasha's hopes, and seems, at the same time, little confident of the present Ministry remaining in power should matters continue to go on at the present rate in Bosnia, for which he, in particular, may have to be responsible to the Sultan after the assurances he had given His Majesty on the strength of the Austrian promises in regard to the suppression of the insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 131.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 10, 1876.

AS Count Andrassy's time is at present entirely taken up with the conferences between the Cis- and Trans-Leithanian Ministers, I called this morning on Baron Hofmann, and informed him, with reference to your Lordship's telegram of the previous day,* that the accounts recently received by Her Majesty's Government as to the prospect of Servia maintaining her promises are not satisfactory, and that some hostile movement was apprehended if General Rodich failed in his negotiations with the insurgent chiefs. I observed also that this information had become extremely serious, in consequence of the recent movement in Bosnia, and the very unsatisfactory result of General Rodich's proceedings in the Suttorina.

Baron Hofmann said it is unfortunately true that the revolutionary party in Servia is endeavouring to drive the country into war, and that as great excitement prevails throughout the Principality it may be doubtful whether Prince Milan will have sufficient firmness to resist them. Austria and Russia, however, will continue to use their efforts at Belgrade to prevent war; and as they have both warned the Prince that he will be held responsible for disregarding the wishes of the Great Powers to prevent any violation of the peace of Europe, there is reason to hope that His Highness will consider that the consequences of offending the Emperors of Austria-Hungary and Russia will be more dangerous than any risk he may incur by resisting the agitators for war.

As to the Herzegovina, his Excellency said it might also be hoped that the insur-

* See No. 113.

gents there would moderate their pretensions on learning that Count Andrassy, without waiting for the arrival of their memorial, had, on receiving a telegraphic report of its contents, declared their demands to be inadmissible, and had instructed General Rodich to inform them that all that was reasonable in these demands had been already granted by the Porte, in conformity with the suggestions contained in his Excellency's despatch of the 30th December last, and that though the Austrian Government would continue to use its influence at Constantinople to secure the execution of the promises already made by the Porte, they considered that to claim further concessions would be unreasonable, and the terms on which it has been proposed to effect the pacification of the country must therefore be strictly maintained, and the insurgent chiefs held responsible for the consequences of declining to accept them.

It was intended also, he said, to instruct General Langenau, by telegraph, to propose to Prince Gortchakow that a joint communication should be addressed by Austria and Russia to the Prince of Montenegro, calling upon His Highness to insist upon the chiefs laying down their arms, and accepting purely and simply the terms of pacification which have been offered to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 132.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby—(*Received April* 14.).

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 11, 1876.

WITH reference to the reciprocal complaints of the Austrian and Turkish authorities, that their troops had been fired upon across the frontier from their respective territories, as reported in Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 8th instant,* I am told that the incident which gave rise to them occurred on the Unna, where some refugees, who had spent the night on the bank, were fired upon when crossing the river into Austria in the ferry-boat; and that an Austrian patrol of ten or twelve men on the opposite bank, being exposed to the fire, returned it, until an officer arriving caused a signal to be given, notifying the presence of the Austrian detachment, when the Turks ceased firing. With regard to the bands said to have invaded Bosnia, I am told that the frontier near Behirtch passes through a mountainous forest district, in which insurgents can secrete themselves from both Austrian and Turkish patrols, but for whose descent into the plains the Turkish military authorities are more responsible than those of Austria can be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 133.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Political Report which has been addressed to me by Mr. Harriss-Gastrell for the Buda-Pesth Consulate-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Vienna, April* 10, 1876.

THE Hungarian newspapers contain many articles and letters of correspondents, showing a determination on the part of Servia to go to war soon against Turkey.

The "Kelet Nepe," in a letter of the 4th from Belgrade, declares everything to indicate an immediate war, and the militia, under pretence of manœuvres, to be marching to the frontier.

"It is a favourable moment, for the Turks have shown so small a military force, and the 50,000 Servian troops, backed up by a general insurrection in Bosnia, can scarcely fail of success."

* See No. 145.

Then the "Nemyeti Hirlap" declares that, unless some very extraordinary event occurs, the war will break out between Servia and Turkey on the 20th of April. The Government has given itself over to the Omladinists, and will carry out their policy. "All Serbs between the ages of 20 and 23 are called out, and make a supply of 100,000 to 120,000 men, and they all go willingly to war, for few have anything to lose."

Such are the statements which abound, and find credence within ten days of Servia's answer to Austria by Prince Wrede.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 134.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 15.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, April* 6, 1876.

THE supplies sent by the Turks for the garrison at Niksich having been landed at Risano, to be forwarded thence through Montenegrin territory to their destination, have been delayed for several days for want of means of transport. The Turks requested Montenegro to furnish 500 horses. The Montenegrin authorities replied that they were not to be procured. An attempt was then made to purchase beasts at Cattaro and in the neighbouring villages, but the Dalmatians refuse to let or to sell any animals for such a purpose; and I am informed that offers at the high rate of nine dollars a horse have been universally declined.

The Turkish Consul-General has gone himself to Risano, but I have not yet heard whether he has succeeded in making any arrangement.

I have, &c
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 135.

Consul Taylor to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 15.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, April* 7, 1876.

THE terms offered by Ali and Wassa Pashas to the insurgents are:—

1. The refugees can within four weeks from 24th March return to their homes.
2. The refugees will be supplied with grain till harvest.
3. The rebuilding of their houses will follow at Government (Turkish) cost.
4. Those who return will be exempt from tithes for one year and from other taxes for two years.
5. A general amnesty for all who return within four weeks.
6. Those who, in spite of these concessions, do not return, will have their lands confiscated.

These are generous terms, but the refugees are tardy in accepting them, fearing a renewal of hostilities between the insurgents and Turks, in which case, if they return, they will, as heretofore, be again the real sufferers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. G. TAYLOR.

No. 136.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April* 15.)

Constantinople, le 13 *Avril*, 1876.

J'AI fait connaître antérieurement à votre Excellence les réformes complémentaires octroyées à la Bosnie et à l'Herzégovine par Iradé Impérial du 18 Mouharrem, 1293. Ces réformes, dans lesquelles on voyait un moyen de pacification des districts insurgés, n'ont pas encore abouti à ce résultat tant désiré. Néanmoins, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a reculé devant aucun sacrifice. Puisant surtout ses inspirations dans ses sentiments de clémence et de sollicitude pour ces populations égarées, il a adopté des mesures pratiques et efficaces, jugées par les Puissances garantes elles-mêmes comme devant amplement suffire à l'œuvre de pacification. Il a chargé des commissaires spéciaux d'aller constituer

sur les lieux des commissions exécutives pour veiller à l'application des réformes, au rapatriement et à l'installation des réfugiés. Aussitôt arrivés à destination, ces Commissaires ont solennellement proclamé qu'une amnistie était accordée à tous les insurgés qui, dans le délai de quatre semaines, déposeraient les armes pour retourner chez eux, et que le même délai était assigné aux réfugiés pour se rapatrier ; que tous seraient sans distinction l'objet de la plus efficace protection, qu'on leur donnerait les facilités nécessaires pour la reconstruction de leurs maisons et de leurs églises incendiées, ainsi que des subsides et des moyens pour commencer leurs travaux ; qu'enfin les rentrants seraient exemptés de la dîme pendant un an et des autres impôts pendant deux ans. Ces mesures elles-mêmes ont été impuissantes à modifier sensiblement la situation. Alors est venue l'entrevue à Raguse du Général Rodich avec Ali et Mouktar Pachas, et dans laquelle il a été arrêté qu'un répit de douze jours serait accordé aux Chefs insurgés pour aller à Sutorina conférer avec le Gouverneur-Général de la Dalmatie. Ainsi mis à même d'apprendre les nouvelles preuves de la générosité de leur Souverain à leur égard, ces Chefs insurgés se sont sentis en quelque sorte encouragés à formuler des conditions et des propositions aussi inqualifiables qu'inadmissibles. En présence de cette situation, le Cabinet de Vienne lui-même nous a informé qu'étant d'avis que les limites tracées par les mesures déjà adoptées de commun accord avec les Puissances ne doivent pas être franchies, il a donné l'ordre de rejeter ces demandes et de notifier aux insurgés que désormais ils auraient à s'adresser aux autorités Ottomanes. Le Comte Andrassy ajoute que les rebelles ont demandé conseil au Prince du Monténégro, qu'il cherchera à influencer ce dernier, et qu'il compte sur une action identique de la Russie. Quant à nous, nous continuerons l'œuvre de la pacification par la fidèle et scrupuleuse exécution des réformes et des mesures arrêtées. En même temps, sans nous départir de la modération que nous nous sommes imposée dès le début, nous donnerons une nouvelle impulsion aux opérations militaires et augmenterons au besoin l'effectif de nos troupes en Herzégovine. J'ajouterai toutefois que nos autorités n'en useront pas moins des moyens de persuasion pour ramener les insurgés dans la voie de l'obéissance. C'est pour vous mettre au courant de la situation que j'ai tenu à vous communiquer ce qui précède.

(Translation.)

Constantinople, April 13, 1876.

I HAVE previously brought to your Excellency's knowledge the supplementary reforms granted to Bosnia and the Herzegovina by the Imperial Iradé of the 18th Mouharrem, 1293. These reforms, in which one saw a method of pacification of the insurgent districts, have not yet brought about this much desired result.

Nevertheless, the Imperial Government has not recoiled before any sacrifice. Drawing above all its inspirations from its sentiments of clemency and solicitude for these misled populations, it has adopted practical and effective measures, judged by the Guaranteeing Powers themselves as amply sufficient for the work of pacification. It has charged Special Commissioners to go and constitute on the spot Executive Commissions to watch over the application of the reforms, and over the repatriation and the installation of the refugees.

Arrived at their destination, these Commissioners at once solemnly proclaimed that an amnesty was granted to all insurgents who, in the space of four weeks, should lay aside their arms to return to their homes, and that the same space of time was assigned to the refugees to return home; that all would be, without distinction, the object of the most effectual protection; that they would be given necessary facilities for the reconstruction of their burnt houses and churches, as well as supplies and means to commence their works; that, finally, those returning would be exempted from the tithe during a year, and from the other taxes during two years. These measures themselves failed to modify the situation sensibly.

Then came the interview at Ragusa of General Rodich with Ali and Moukhtar Pasha, when it was determined that a respite of twelve days should be granted to the insurgent chiefs to go to Sutorina to confer with the Governor-General of Dalmatia.

Being thus made acquainted with the fresh proofs of the generosity of their Sovereign as regards them, these insurgent chiefs felt themselves in some measure encouraged to draw up conditions and propositions as preposterous as they were inadmissible. In the face of this situation the Vienna Cabinet itself has informed us that, being of opinion that the limits traced by the measures already adopted by common accord with the Powers ought not to be transgressed, it has given orders to reject these demands, and to notify to the insurgents that henceforth they would have to address the Ottoman authorities. Count Andrassy adds that the rebels have asked advice of the Prince of Montenegro, that he will try and influence the latter, and that he counts on identic action on the part of Russia.

As regards ourselves, we shall continue the work of pacification by the faithful and scrupulous execution of the reforms and the measures determined on. At the same time, without departing from the moderation which we imposed on ourselves from the first, we shall give a fresh impulse to the military operations, and increase, if necessary, the strength of our troops in the Herzegovina. I will add, however, that our officials will none the less employ persuasive means to bring back the insurgents to the path of obedience.

I have determined to make the above communication to you to put you in possession of the state of affairs.

No. 137.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 17.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, April* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have just addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting irruptions of armed bands into Bosnia in the Sandjaks of Bihach and Zvornik; and also reporting that permission has been granted to have bells in the Orthodox Church in this town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Acting Consul Freeman to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bosna Seraï, April* 7, 1876.

ON the 3rd instant I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency as follows:—

"Information received here that large bands of armed men have entered Bosnia in the vicinity of Kostainitza and Krupa, and being joined by the inhabitants of Lipnik, Fazen, Ostrovitza, and Tapra, are encamped about 4,000 strong at Lipnik, district of Majdan. Many houses burnt, and other ravages committed. Communications with Bihach intercepted. Troops are urgently demanded, and irregulars have been levied."

I also telegraphed to your Excellency on the 6th instant that "an armed band, about 400 strong, has crossed the Save into Bosnia, near Shamatz, and are raising the Christian population."

I have but few details to add to the information contained in these telegrams. As regards the irruption reported in the former one, it would appear to have been made according to a preconcerted plan, as on the same day, Thursday, the 30th ultimo, armed bands entered the Sandjak of Bihach at diversely opposite points, viz., near Krupa and Kostainitza, in the north, and at Unnatz, in the south-east. They were at once joined by numbers of the peasants, those unwilling to rise being forced to do so, as usual, by having their houses burnt and their property destroyed; and now the whole country between Krupa, Kljuch, and Unnatz may be said to be in revolt. The authorities urgently demand troops, and two battalions have already been dispatched from here. Two have also been sent thither from the Herzegovina by way of Livno, and four more are expected here to-day or to-morrow from Sienitza, two of which will be sent on without delay to the north. It will be ten or fifteen days, however, before all these troops can reach their destination, and in the meantime the small force in the Sandjak of Bihach is powerless to cope with the insurgents. A few skirmishes have been already reported, but without any important result for either side.

No particulars have yet been received here regarding the band that has passed the Save at Shamatz in the Sandjak of Zvornik.

The Turks maintain that these armed bands are composed of Austrians, Servians, and even Montenegrins, but I think it more probable that they consist chiefly of the Bosnian refugees, who, finding the means of subsistence failing them, and being pressed by Austria to return to their country, have preferred doing so with arms in their hands. On the other hand, emigration from the northern districts of this province is said still to continue, many families having passed into Austria within the last fifteen days.

In consequence of these events his Excellency Haidar Effendi is naturally taking no steps to bring about the return of the refugees, and he has decided on not issuing for the present a Proclamation which had been prepared, and of which many thousand copies had been printed.

The Mutessarif of Travnik also reports that there are indications of a proximate rising in the districts of Taïtza and Glamoch, and has asked for additional troops and a supply of ammunition.

The opinion seems to prevail that Bosnia and the Herzegovina are now well provided with troops, but the number is totally inadequate to the occasion. The whole force, inclusive of artillery and cavalry, cannot be reckoned at more than sixty battalions, which, reduced as they are by desertion, sickness, and losses in the field, does not represent more than 20,000 men. I am assured that there are many battalions which cannot now bring into the field 150 men.

I am glad to be able to report that since Sunday last a bell has been rung at the Orthodox church in this town, and the Mussulmans seem to have treated the matter with the utmost indifference. It is true it is a very small one and the sound produced resembles rather the striking of a clock than the ringing of a bell, but now that a beginning has been made the Turks will get accustomed to the sound, and probably make no opposition if eventually a larger and more sonorous bell be used.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 138.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 12, 1876.

I HAD an interview yesterday with M. de Giers, and inquired whether any information of a satisfactory nature had been received from the Herzegovine. His Excellency replied that the accounts were of such a contradictory nature that it was impossible to form any correct judgment as to the successful issue of the negotiations for the pacification of that province.

M. de Giers said that the Imperial Government had received no distinct or positive information as to the progress or result of General Rodich's negotiations. The insurgent Chiefs had submitted to him the conditions on which they were ready to submit and lay down their arms, and his Excellency seemed to consider the fact of their willingness to lay down their arms as of good omen.

M. de Giers observed that Prince Gortchakow was of opinion that the conditions of the insurgents ought not to be entirely rejected, or the doors thus closed to the possibility of an arrangement. Some means might be found of harmonizing these conditions with the general necessity of the situation, without sacrifice to the dignity of the Porte, and with evident advantage to all parties concerned.

As far as I could gather from M. de Giers, General Rodich had, on receiving the conditions of the insurgents, with a memoir explanatory of them, referred them to the Prince of Montenegro, and had appealed to him for his aid and influence with the insurgents.

It is evident to me that the Russian Government are most anxious for a pacification on any suitable terms.

The Imperial Government are consequently desirous that the negotiations with General Rodich and the insurgents should not be abruptly broken off, but that the armistice should be prolonged, and time thus given for the exercise of the pacifying elements.

The two points to which M. de Giers referred in the conditions of the Insurgents as susceptible of an understanding were, the right of the Christian population to carry arms for their defence, or a disarmament of the Mussulman population; as the latter was impracticable, there was no reason to oppose the admission of the former.

The second point was the concentration of the troops in six localities, under the supervision of foreign Commissaries.

His Excellency (evidently expressing the views of Prince Gortchakow) was of opinion that a suitable arrangement of this nature, with a view to a pacification, was not impracticable.

Finally, M. de Giers said that a certain M. Wessilitzky had reported that if acceptable conditions were made the insurgents would give in their submission, but that a refusal of what they considered to be the minimum of their claims would at once decide them to continue their resistance.

In reply to my inquiry, M. de Giers stated that the Imperial Government had received no information in regard to a reported rising in Bosnia.

No. 139.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 17.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, April* 13, 1876.

HAVING received yesterday a telegram from Mr. Monson, of which I inclose a copy, I called on Baron Hofmann to ask whether any information had reached him respecting the alleged appointment of M. Wessilitzky to act for the insurgent Chiefs at Constantinople.

His Excellency said it appeared that M. de Wessilitzky had received a written communication from the Chiefs, containing the conditions on which they stated to Baron Rodich that they would lay down their arms, and in which, after acknowledging his past good offices on their behalf, and in assisting the refugees, they had requested him to recommend these conditions to the favourable consideration of the Great Powers and of the Porte.

His Excellency said that M. Wessilitzky appeared, therefore, to have left Ragusa for Vienna, but it was impossible that he could be received at the Porte, as the representative of the insurgents, to negotiate a pacification of the Herzegovina.

I had mentioned to his Excellency on the previous evening, on meeting him accidentally, that I had been surprised to learn that General Ignatiew had spoken of Count Andrassy as not considering the demands of insurgents to be unreasonable, and as I again referred to this representation of the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, his Excellency, without apparently attaching much importance to it, informed me that at first there had been a slight difference of opinion between Count Andrassy's view of the present state of the question and that of Prince Gortchakow, who had considered that the conditions demanded by the insurgents offered a basis for negotiating an arrangement.

The two Governments had, however, he said, now come to an agreement (Prince Gortchakow having adhered to Count Andrassy's opinion) that no further conditions can be proposed to the Porte, and that those already formulated must remain the limit of the concessions to be granted to the Christian population of the insurgent Provinces; but it is hoped at the same time that, within those conditions, explanations may be given as to the details of the manner in which they will be carried out, which will satisfy the Chiefs that all that is reasonable in their demands will be secured to them. The suspension of hostilities ought, therefore, he said, to be prolonged, in order to give time for further communication with Constantinople and with the insurgents; and the same language would be held on the subject by the Austrian and the Russian Ambassadors.

I afterwards called on M. de Novikow, who spoke in the same sense as Baron Hoffmann, respecting the impossibility of M. Wessilitzky, who is a Russian subject, being received at the Porte as the representative of the insurgents, and his Excellency endeavoured to diminish the importance of the part which has been already taken by that gentleman in the recent communications with the Prince of Montenegro and the insurgent chiefs.

Inclosure in No. 139.

Mr. Monson to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, April* 12, 1876.

WESSILITZKY started to-night viâ Fiume, and is due in Vienna Friday night. Am informed on tolerable authority that he has full powers to act for all the chiefs at Constantinople, but cannot vouch for this.

No. 140.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 17.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 15 *Avril*, 1876.

CONFORMEMENT aux instructions de mon Gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Rachid Pacha au sujet de la trève demandée par les chefs des insurgés de l'Herzégovine, et consentie par son Excellence Mouktar Pacha, et de la manière dont a été éludée la condition relative au ravitaillement de Nikchik.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *April* 15, 1876.

IN conformity with instructions received from my Government, I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency the annexed copy of a telegram which I have just received from his Excellency Raschid Pasha relative to the truce requested by the Chiefs of the insurgents of the Herzegovina, and agreed to by his Excellency Moukhtar Pasha, and to the manner in which the condition relating to the revictualling of Nichsich has been evaded.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 13 *Août*, 1876.

VOTRE Excellence sait que le Général Baron Rodich avait reçu la mission de réunir à Sutorina les chefs insurgés pour porter à leur connaissance les mesures généreuses dont ils ont été l'objet de la part du Gouvernement Impérial, les engager à se soumettre et à rentrer dans leurs foyers. En même temps, une entrevue nous a été conseillée entre Ali et Moukhtar Pachas, et le Gouverneur-Général de la Dalmatie. Cette entrevue a eu lieu à Raguse. Indépendamment de l'entente qui s'y est établie sur les dispositions à prendre réciproquement tant à l'égard des réfugiés que des insurgés, le Baron Rodich a demandé à conférer avec les chefs insurgés. Ces derniers, répondant à ce désir du Baron Rodich, n'avaient voulu y consentir, qu'à la condition qu'une trève de douze jours leur serait assurée. De son côté, le Prince du Montenégro a appuyé leur demande, et promis conjointement le ravitaillement de Nikchik à travers la Principauté. Notre Commandant-en-chef a consenti à cette trève. La Sublime Porte, qui ne l'avait pas autorisée, se réserve d'examiner la manière d'agir en cette circonstance du Commandant-en-chef, et de la blâmer, s'il y a lieu ; en tout cas, elle a reconnu le fait accompli. Mais j'ajouterai qu'en même temps il avait été entendu et décidé que Nikchik, que nos troupes allaient en ce moment ravitailler, en forçant les positions occupées par les insurgés à cet égard, le serait pendant la trève, et que les provisions passeraient librement par le Montenégro. Le Prince Nicolas, qui désirait vivement l'entente des chefs insurgés avec le Baron Rodich, avait formellement promis de donner à cet effet toutes les facilités désirées. Les douze jours de répit ont été scrupuleusement observés ; ils se sont pleinement écoulés, et, pendant que les chefs insurgés formulaient les conditions et les demandes inqualifiables que vous connaissez, nous n'avons pu introduire aucun approvisionnement à Nikchik, grâce aux empêchements déguisés que le Montenégro s'est ingénié à cumuler pour faire manquer complètement cette aspiration, et cela, lorsqu'il était connu que tout autre chemin nous était fermé par suite de l'engagement pris de ne pas attaquer les positions occupées par les insurgés.

Aujourd'hui, ces derniers, profitant des avantages de leur situation, faisant appel à toutes les forces dont ils disposent, concentrent leurs derniers efforts pour empêcher ce ravitaillement. En présence de l'entente intervenue à Raguse, en présence de la promesse formelle que le Prince Nicolas s'est empressé de donner à cet égard comme un témoignage et comme un gage de son désir de concourir à la pacification, nous nous demandons comment nous devons interpréter les faits tels qu'ils se sont présentés à nous. Serait-ce faire une conjecture hasardée que de supposer que notre confiance et notre bonne foi ont été surprises, et que les chefs insurgés, d'accord avec le Montenégro, nous ont fait perdre du temps pour profiter des circonstances ?

Telle est notre impression, et je vous prie de la soumettre à l'appréciation bienveillante du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 13, 1876.

YOUR Excellency is aware that General Baron Rodich was charged to assemble at Sutorina the insurgent chiefs in order to communicate to them the generous measures concerted for them by the Imperial Government, and to invite them to submit and to return to their homes. At the same time we were advised to consent to a meeting between Ali and Moukhtar Pashas and the Governor-General of Dalmatia. This interview took place at Regusa. Independently of the understanding which was arrived at as to the measures to be mutually taken both as regards the refugees as well as regards the insurgents, Baron Rodich put forward the request for a Conference

with the insurgent Chiefs. The latter, in reply to Baron Rodich's wish, only agreed to consent to it upon condition that a truce of twelve days should be granted to them. On his side the Prince of Montenegro supported their demands, and, conjointly with them, promised the revictualling of Nichsich viâ the Principality. Our Commander-in-chief agreed to this truce. The Sublime Porte, not having sanctioned it, reserves to itself the right of investigating the conduct of the Governor-General in this matter, and of censuring it should there be ground for so doing; but, that which had been settled was none the less recognized by it. But I should add that it had at the same time been understood and decided that Nichsich, which was on the point of being reprovisioned by our troops, who were ready, with that object, to force the positions held by the insurgents, should be revictualled during the truce, and that provisions should pass freely viâ Montenegro. The Prince Nicolas, who was very desirous that the insurgent chiefs should come to an understanding with Baron Rodich, gave a formal promise that he would, for this purpose, give every facility desired.

The twelve days of respite have been scrupulously observed; they have now entirely elapsed, and while the insurgent chiefs have been formulating the unheard-of conditions and demands, of which you already have cognizance, we have been unable to introduce any provisions into Nicksich, thanks to the disguised hindrances which Montenegro has taxed her ingenuity to multiply with a view to entirely prevent the accomplishment of this wish, and when all the while it was well known that all other roads were closed to us in consequence of the engagement into which we had entered not to attack the positions occupied by the insurgents.

At the present moment the latter, taking advantage of their position, and summoning all the forces at their command, concentrate their last efforts with a view to prevent this revictualling. In view of the understanding come to at Ragusa, in view of the formal promise which Prince Nicolas hastened to give on this subject as evidence and pledge of his desire to co-operate in the work of pacification, we ask how are we to construe the facts which have occurred? Is it a very hazardous conjecture if we suppose that advantage has been taken of our confidence and good faith, and that the insurgent chiefs, in understanding with Montenegro, have made us lose time with a view to profit by circumstances?

Such is our impression, and I have to request that you will submit it to the friendly consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 141.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, April* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's communication of the 15th instant, respecting the terms upon which the armistice between the Porte and the insurgents in the Herzegovina was agreed to, and the impediments thrown in the way of the revictualling of Nichsich.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 142.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

My Lord, *Mostar, April* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of April 7, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, relating to various matters of interest at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, April* 7, 1876.

IT would appear appear that a report has been widely circulated that a massacre of some of the inhabitants of a village near Stolatz or Bilekia has lately occurred. Nothing

of the kind has happened near the former place, but it is known that a band of insurgents endeavoured to drive off some cattle from a village near Bilekia, and it is said that some persons were killed in an affray which took place. No particulars, however, are as yet known.

Ali Pasha has received telegrams from the Porte and from Paris inquiring into this matter, and has written for information on the subject. There is no telegraph to Bilekia, and communications are slow, but when intelligence is received I shall not fail to communicate it to your Excellency.

Bad news has been received from the north-west of Bosnia, where it is said that Unatz, Troubar, and Boboluski, in the Sandjak of Bihach, and Yaïtza, Glamouch, Livno, and Duvno, in the Sandjak of Travnik, have been forced to rise by the irruption of armed bands, and the country is being devastated.

Ibrahim Pasha, the Governor-General of Bosnia, was warned six weeks ago by Ali Pasha that preparations for a movement were being made, but he seems to have paid no attention to the matter, for when I was in Serajevo he did not even allude to it. He has been asked where the armed bands passed the frontier, but he replies that he cannot say, and in fact seems to know none of the particulars of the affair.

The interview which took place between Ali Pasha and Baron Rodich had for its object to arrange matters in the best manner possible for the return of the refugee insurgents into the Herzegovina, and Ali Pasha understood that in consequence of the acceptance of Count Andrassy's note, the Austrian Government had undertaken to urge the refugees to return, and to discontinue their allowances if they refused to do so.

Ali Pasha on his way to Ragusa ascertained that at Stagno there were 500 families quite willing to come back, and he thinks that everywhere the great majority desire to do so. On speaking, however, to Baron Rodich about the matter, the latter declared that the refugees refused to return. And Ali Pasha then declared that his mission was at an end. His Excellency states that the supplies to the refugees have not been discontinued.

An armistice of twelve days has been accorded, dating from the 1st of April, and Baron Rodich is now supposed to be urging the armed insurgents to lay down their arms.

It is a very critical moment, and it is impossible to predict what may happen until the 12th, when the armistice will cease. The sincerity of the Austrian Government to bring about a pacification can scarcely be doubted, and hopes are therefore strongly entertained here that a pacification will be effected in spite of the unpromising aspect of affairs produced by the rising in the north-west of Bosnia. This will, I think, be easily put down by the Turks if they take proper measures, as the country is not of the same difficult nature as the Herzegovina, and it will have no further importance if a pacification be arrived at than that of increasing the devastation and distress in Bosnia; if otherwise, it will prove a most serious complication of affairs.

Ali Pasha, the Governor-General of the Herzegovina, is doing his best to put matters right. I think that on all sides there is a misapprehension as to the attributions and authority of the two Commissioners with relation to the Governors-General, which, as usual, I suppose, have not been sufficiently clearly defined by the Porte, and that this will, perhaps, give rise to future trouble.

The Italian Government has established a Vice-Consulate here, and Signor Usiglii, the gentleman appointed to the post, arrived at Mostar on the 19th of March.

No. 143.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 19.)

My Lord, *Scutari, April* 7, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have ascertained, from a trustworthy Moslem source, that fourteen Turkish officers captured during the recent reverses of the Sultan's troops in the Herzegovina are detained as prisoners in Montenegro, and that the Turkish authorities fear that if attempts that are being made to obtain their release are not speedily successful they will be executed, not to say murdered, by the Montenegrins. Another Turkish officer who had also been made prisoner, and was released through private influences employed in his favour, is reported to have arrived here two days ago. Accounts, credited by my informant, state that there are female Mohammedan prisoners in Montenegro, and that a very considerable number of Turkish soldiers, after having been conveyed into the Principality, were butchered with accompanying circumstances of revolting cruelty.

Some officers whom I met on my journey here, and who were returning from the seat of the insurrection, admitted to me that the losses of the Turkish troops in the recent encounters were exceedingly heavy, but added that the mortality that has arisen among them from disease engendered by exposure to the inclemencies of the weather and by insufficiency of food is a far more serious matter.

A few days ago the Governor-General, having received a telegraphic communication about the armistice said to have been concluded between the Turks and the insurgents, informed the public that the road to Nichsich through Montenegro was once more open. A limited number of loads of provisions were prepared and dispatched by some merchants, but when the caravan reached the Herzegovinian frontier the Montenegrins counselled it not to venture any further as the rebels would probably not permit it to pass unmolested. The loads were therefore brought back to Scutari. It is now more than six months since any provisions have been introduced into Nichsich from this, although in times of peace that town receives its supplies from Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 144.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 19.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, April* 11, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation from the Italian version made by M. Durando, the Italian Consular Commissioner in the Herzegovina, of the document presented to Baron Rodich by the insurgent Chiefs, at Suttorina, on the 7th instant.

In his frequent conversations with me upon the origin and history of the insurrection, M. Durando has invariably maintained that the agrarian grievance lay at the root of the question; that it had been, far more than the religious disabilities, the cause of discontent; and he, therefore, regards the first condition submitted by the insurgents as extremely pertinent and suggestive.

All the accounts which have reached me of the interview at Suttorina concur in attributing to the insurgent Chiefs the most determined language; and, as far as I am able to judge of public opinion in a town where no newspapers are published, and which, under the peculiar circumstances of the moment is perpetually excited by the most contradictory rumours, the mission of Baron Rodich is generally considered at Ragusa as a complete failure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, have seen the Report which M. Durando sends this day to his Government upon the Address of the insurgents. He points out that the demand for a third of the lands must not be considered as indicative of communistic aspirations, but as a clumsily expressed desire for the revocation of the agrarian regulations of 1851 and 1862, which abolished the ancient feudal privileges of the tillers of the soil.

E. M.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Address of the Insurgent Chiefs to Baron Rodich.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

NONE can more appreciate the rectitude, nor recognize with more sincere gratitude the undertaking of powerful Austria in thus attempting to ameliorate the condition of the Christians in Turkey, and of us insurgents,—a condition so wretched as to have become henceforth insupportable.

The Imperial Austrian Government may be assured that the Herzegovinian nation is profoundly touched, and grateful for all that that Government has done for our good. We, having been obedient to the summons of Austria, and desirous of following her counsels, ask permission of your Excellency, as of a friendly intermediary with the Imperial Government, to say frankly what we have at heart, and what we desire; especially as we think and believe that no one in the world can expect that we shall return

into the power of the Turks, and into the condition in which we have lived hitherto; as also that no one in the world can desire that we should so return.

Everything in our country is burned and laid waste. With what spirit can we return to this unhappy country of ours?

Austria has been so good as to interest herself about us and our existence, and has informed us that she has obtained some reform for us. In the words of Austria we have trust, and therefore we accept these reforms, but only when they shall have been put into execution; then will we return under the sovereignty of the Sultan.

It is true Turkey has promised to execute them, and says that the Powers have guaranteed them, but we cannot on any account believe that Turkey means to, or can, execute them. Therefore no sincere friend of our unhappy nation will think we are wrong in seeking for secure guarantees for our amelioration, which guarantees we submit and present to your Excellency:—

I. That to the Christians shall be given at least a third of the lands as their property; lands which the Turks took and usurped from the Christians, and without which third the latter will not be able to live.

II. That Turkey withdraws the troops in the Herzegovina, and shall only maintain garrisons which shall be recognized as necessary in the following places: Mostar, Stolatz, Trebigné, Nichsich, Pleoljé, and Toccie.

III. That Turkey cause to be rebuilt the houses and churches that have been burned, provide for the Christians food for at least a year, and agricultural implements, and exempt them from taxation for three years from the date of their return.

IV. That the Christians shall not lay down their arms until the Mussulmans shall have been disarmed, and until the reforms are in process of execution.

V. The Christians having returned, their leaders shall come to an understanding with the Government as to the execution of the reforms. The said leaders shall compose an assembly with the functionaries of the Government for the application and the regulation of the said reforms, which latter must be extended to the whole of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

VI. As the insurgents cannot trust to the simple promises of the Porte, which he has never been known to keep, and as also the Porte will with difficulty support her own troops, the insurgents, fearing that the money given by the Porte for the Christians may be lost in the hands of the Turkish employés, who would distribute nothing, and would let the Christians starve; and as the insurgents know that they would get no help from the Porte, even if the powers should protest; on these grounds we demand that the money shall be paid into the hands of the Treasurer of an European Commission, that this Commission shall receive all the funds for the reconstruction by itself of the houses and churches, and for the distribution of provisions to the Christian families, erecting for that purpose central storehouses in convenient places.

Finally, we demand that in the before-mentioned garrisons, occupied by the Turks, the Governments of Austria and Russia shall establish agents, who shall see that the reforms are executed as we desire.

While we do not dare to ask for more, we cannot, on the other hand, ask for less for our safety and tranquillity.

We submit these our desires to Austria through the medium of your Excellency.

Suttorina, $\frac{\text{March } 26}{\text{April } 7}$, 1876.

(Follow the signatures.)

No. 145.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 8, 1876.

COUNT ZICHY this morning communicated to the Porte a telegram from Count Andrassy, complaining that an Austrian detachment, within their own frontier, had been fired upon by the Turkish troops.

In the course of the afternoon a telegram was received from the Governor-General of Bosnia, giving the Turkish version of this occurrence.

According to this, the Ottoman troops, while pursuing a body of insurgents who were driving off some cattle which they had seized, were fired upon from across the frontier by the Austrians, and had replied to the fire in self defence.

There is stated to be great exasperation on both sides.

All available troops, which amount at present only to two or three battalions and

4,000 irregulars, are being hurried to the scene of the new insurrection; but, as I do not imagine that it will be possible for any considerable reinforcements to reach it for some time, the situation is becoming extremely critical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 146.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 11, 1876.*

RASCHID PASHA has been much pleased by a telegram communicated to him by Count Zichy, in which Count Andrassy expresses the strongest disapproval of the demands put forward by the insurgents.

Count Andrassy states that the Porte should not be encouraged to add a single hair's breadth to the concessions already promised by it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 147.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 12, 1876.*

RASCHID PASHA having spoken to me of the approaching expiration of the suspension of hostilities in the Herzegovina, I said that it would be right to authorize the Commander-in-chief to prolong it without further reference to the Porte, if he saw reason to expect that it might lead to an understanding with the chiefs.

I learnt last night that Moukhtar Pasha has telegraphed that, as there is no appearance of the insurgents accepting the conditions offered to them, it is, in his opinion, advisable that hostilities should at once recommence at the expiration of the period of suspension agreed upon, of which this is the last day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 148.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, April 14, 1876.*

MOUKHTAR PASHA, with twenty battalions, is, I am told, on his way to the relief of Nicksich, and a serious engagement with the insurgents may be expected within two or three days. Nearly all the troops have been withdrawn from Trebigné, and Constant Pasha has warned the Turkish Consulate here that communication between that town and Ragusa is for the moment hazardous.

The employment of Bashi-Bazouks is under the serious consideration of the Turkish military authorities, who begin to perceive that with regular troops alone they have no chance of suppressing the insurrection. They argue that the kind of warfare carried on by the insurgents is one which cannot be fairly met but by similar tactics; that the daily perpetration of outrages and massacres (it is to-day reported that some zaptiehs have been burned alive by the Christians) justify the use of reprisals; and that even on philanthropical grounds, if the insurrection is to be stamped out, any hesitation at employing every practicable coercive measure is misplaced. They are aware that foreign countries will probably protest against such a policy, but they maintain that such protests would not be made if Europe clearly understood the savage and brigand-like character of the warfare practised by the insurgents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 149.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April 19, 1876.*

IN forwarding to your Lordship herewith Mr. Monson's despatch of the 14th, which I received this morning under flying seal, reporting that Moukhtar Pasha had left Mostar with twenty battalions to provision Nichsich, I also inclose a translation of a statement from the "Politische Correspondenz," containing information up to the 16th instant of fighting in the Duga Pass, and on the road to Nichsich, which the Turkish army had not reached on that date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Extract from the "Politische Correspondenz."

(Translation.)

IN the "Political Correspondence" we receive news from the Herzegovina by way of Ragusa to the effect that, immediately after the cessation of the armistice, Moukhtar Pasha made preparations to provision Nichsich, where the supplies had fallen very short. With this object he organized an expedition consisting of twenty-five battalions, but was obliged to detach several in order to send them to Trebigné, which, in the meantime, was threatened by several bands of insurgents. He had besides at his disposal, on the 13th of April, eighteen battalions of regular troops, which he concentrated at Tristac at the entrance of the Douga Pass.

On the 14th the Douga Pass was forced by the Turks without any particular difficulty, and it was only between the Turkish rear-guard and an insurgent division, commanded by Pope Zimunics, that more spirited firing ensued, in which the insurgents assert that they were victorious; an assertion which is, however, entirely without foundation, as the engagement did not even prevent Moukhtar Pasha from bringing his whole army corps through the pass.

On the 14th, Moukhtar was prevented from advancing further by numerous insurgent divisions under Petro Pavlovics and Lazar Sotschitza, and, in the neighbourhood of the Turkish block-house Presjeka, a more important engagement ensued, which lasted the whole day.

From the fact that the Turks maintained and spent the night in their positions it is evident that there was no question of a victory for the insurgents on that day.

On the next day Ahmed Moukhtar made an attempt to break through the insurgent lines, which had meanwhile formed up closer, and this lead to a deadly engagement. The insurgents not merely kept their stand bravely, but began to act on the offensive, and, though suffering terrible losses, compelled the Turks to retire as far as Odzime Poljame.

On the 16th Moukhtar renewed the attack against the insurgents, while, at the same time, the Turkish garrison in Nichsich made a sally. He could not, however, succeed in forcing his way to Nichsich, as the Turks there were obliged to beat a hasty retreat into the fortress. Thus for two days have the Turks and insurgents, worn out as they are with their frequent engagements, been confronting each other. The insurgents assert that they have hemmed in the whole Turkish army corps, and that Moukhtar Pasha will be compelled to lay down his arms, to say nothing of the fall of Nichsich, which they consider to be inevitable. In Ragusa, on the contrary, we know that the insurgents, besides finding themselves numerically inferior to the Turkish forces, have but slight hopes of forcing Moukhtar Pasha to lay down his arms, as they are themselves in great straits from want of ammunition and provisions.

No. 150.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23.)

(Extract.) *Bucharest, April 4, 1876.*

I INCLOSE a Circular sent by the Roumanian Government to their Agents abroad.

Inclosure in No. 150.

Circular Note addressed by the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs to his Agents abroad.

M. l'Agent,

AU milieu des émotions qui l'agitent encore, l'Europe éprouve un si grand besoin de paix, un tel désir d'éviter toute cause de conflagration, que je ne crois pas superflu, pour conserver à notre pays les sympathies des Puissances Garantes, de leur rappeler, à l'occasion, l'attitude paisible et absolument correcte que le Gouvernement du Prince a conservée depuis le commencement de la crise qui a éclaté en Orient.

Cette attitude, prudente autant que loyale, ne résulte pas seulement des idées personnelles d'un groupe d'hommes qui, se trouvant au pouvoir, auraient dirigé, dans ce sens, le courant de l'opinion ; elle ressort encore et surtout des traditions, des sentiments, des vrais intérêts du peuple Roumain.

Géographiquement séparé de la Turquie par un des plus grands fleuves du monde, forte de son autonomie, confiante dans les Traités qui garantissent son existence, la Roumanie n'a pas à revendiquer des droits qu'elle n'a jamais aliénés. Bien qu'étrangère, par la langue, par le sang, et par le génie de son peuple, aux races qui habitent la Turquie, elle ne leur marchande pas ses sympathies ; mais elle ne voit rien, non plus dans ce qui se passe au delà du Danube, qui doive lui faire oublier les questions économiques et sociales qui s'agitent dans son sein et qu'il lui faut résoudre à tout prix. Le peuple Roumain comprend que de la solution de ces problèmes dépendent son repos et son bien-être intérieurs.

Le désir de réaliser tout le progrès compatible avec notre temps et nos moyens forme aujourd'hui, M. l'Agent, l'objet de nos constantes préoccupations. Développer notre agriculture et notre commerce ; créer de toutes pièces, pour ainsi dire, notre industrie ; multiplier nos relations avec les pays voisins ; mettre l'instruction à la portée de tous ; augmenter nos voies de communication ; n'y a-t-il pas là de quoi absorber toutes nos facultés ? Cette noble tâche, ce vaste champ ouvert à l'intelligence et à l'activité des Roumains, ne sont-ils pas dignes d'une nation jalouse de prendre place dans la grande famille des peuples civilisées ?

Ces idées de paix et de progrès forment un programme auquel nous saurons rester fidèles. Comptant en toute occasion sur la sympathie des Grandes Puissances ; confiants en nos propres forces pour nous développer pacifiquement, nous faisons, de la stricte observation des Traités, la base même de notre politique.

Dans les circonstances actuelles, cette politique se définit d'un mot—la neutralité. Si elle nous crée des droits à l'appui et à l'estime des Puissances Garantes, elle nous impose aussi des sacrifices et le devoir de faire respecter cette neutralité.

Ce qui précède doit suffire pour édifier les plus prévenus sur les véritables sentiments du peuple Roumain et sur les véritables intentions de son Gouvernement. J'ai tout lieu de croire que ces franches explications réduiront à néant les bruits répandus naguère sur de prétendus armements que nous songerions à faire.

Vous savez, en effet, M. l'Agent, que les Corps Législatifs n'ont accordé cette année, au Ministre de la Guerre, en fait de crédits extraordinaires, qu'une somme de 950,000 fr. Si ce Ministre dispose actuellement d'une réserve de 4,000,000 fr., c'est parce qu'il a conservé intacts 3,000,000 fr. sur le crédit qui lui avait été allouée l'année dernière, et dont il aurait déjà trouvé l'emploi, si le Gouvernement avait nourri, ne fût-ce qu'un instant, les projets belliqueux qu'on lui a si gratuitement attribués. Ne pensez-vous pas, Monsieur, que, le cas échéant, il aurait dû songer, tout d'abord, donner à notre infanterie cette uniformité d'armement que réclament pour elle tous les hommes spéciaux, et que nous serons néanmoins obligés de lui faire attendre encore ?

Tels sont les faits, M. l'Agent, telle est, je le répète, la conduite pacifique que le Gouvernement du Prince a suivie, et qu'il est décidé à suivre encore. Observateur scrupuleux des Traités, spectateur désintéressé des événements qui se déroulent autour de lui, il ne songe qu'aux moyens de mettre en œuvre les immenses ressources dont la Roumanie peut disposer.

Vous voudrez bien, Monsieur, vous pénétrer de ces idées, et vous en inspirer exclusivement dans toutes les communications verbales que vous serez appelé à faire à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) BALLATCHANO.

(Translation.)

M. l'Agent,

EUROPE, in the midst of the emotions which still agitate her, feels so great a need of peace, such a desire to avoid every cause of conflagration, that I do not think it superfluous, with the object of preserving for our country the sympathies of the Guaranteeing Powers, to recall to them, on this occasion, the peaceable and absolutely correct attitude which the Prince's Government has preserved from the commencement of the crisis which has arisen in the East.

This attitude, as prudent as it is loyal, does not only result from the personal views of a group of men, who, finding themselves in power, may have guided the current of opinion in this direction; it results in addition and above all from the traditions, the sentiments, the real interests of the Roumanian people.

Separated geographically from Turkey by one of the greatest rivers in the world, strong in her autonomy, confident in the Treaties which guarantee her existence, Roumania is not obliged to lay claim to rights which she has never forfeited. Though foreign by language, by race, by the genius of her people, to the races who inhabit Turkey, she does not hesitate to give them her sympathies; but neither does she see anything in the events passing beyond the Danube which ought to make her forget the economical and social questions which have arisen in her midst, and which she must solve at any price.

The Roumanian people understands that on the solution of these problems depend its internal repose and welfare.

The desire of realising all the progress compatible with our time and our means forms at the present moment, M. l'Agent, the object of our constant care. The development of our agriculture and our commerce; the creation at all points, so to speak, of our industries; the multiplication of our relations with neighbouring countries; the placing of instruction within the reach of all; the increase of our means of communication, are not these sufficient to absorb all our faculties? This noble task, this great field open to the intelligence and the activity of the Roumanians, are not these worthy of a nation eager to take its place in the great family of civilized peoples.

These peaceful and progressive ideas form a programme to which we shall know how to remain faithful. Relying under all circumstances upon the sympathy of the Great Powers; confiding in our own powers for our pacific development; we make the strict observance of Treaties the very basis of our policy.

Under present circumstances, this policy is defined in one word—neutrality. If this policy gives us the right to the support and the esteem of the Guaranteeing Powers, it also imposes on us some sacrifices and the duty of making this neutrality respected.

The preceding ought to suffice to enlighten the most prejudiced as to the real sentiments of the Roumanian people, and as to the real intentions of its Government. I have every reason to believe that these frank explanations will dissipate the rumours lately spread abroad concerning the alleged armaments which we were supposed to be making.

In point of fact, you are aware, M. l'Agent, that the Legislative Assemblies have only granted this year to the Minister of War, under the head of extraordinary credit, a sum of 950,000 fr. Although this Minister has at the present moment a reserve of 4,000,000 fr., that is because he has preserved intact 3,000,000 fr. from the credit which was allotted to him last year, and for which he would already have found employment, had the Government entertained, were it only for an instant, the warlike projects that have been so gratuitously attributed to it. Do you not think, Sir, that if the case had been so, it would have been his duty, first of all to give to our infantry that uniformity of armament which all the specialists demand for it, and for which we shall, nevertheless, be obliged to make them wait some time longer.

Such are the facts, M. l'Agent; such, I repeat, is the pacific conduct which the Prince's Government has followed, and which it is resolved to continue to follow.

Scrupulously observing all Treaties, as a disinterested spectator of the events which develop themselves around us, we think only of the means of utilizing the immense resources of which Roumania can dispose.

I am desirous, Sir, that you should be impressed by these ideas, and that you should be exclusively inspired by them in all the verbal communications that you may be called upon to make to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of .

I have, &c.

(Signed) BALLATCHAN.O

No. 151.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 14, 1876.

AT an interview I had yesterday with Prince Gortchakow, his Highness informed me, in reply to my inquiry, that he had declined to accede to the proposal of Count Andrassy to make a joint representation to the Prince of Montenegro, urging him to insist on the acceptance by the insurgent chiefs of the terms offered to them.

Prince Gortchakow stated that he was of opinion that the counter-proposals of the insurgent chiefs should not have been so summarily rejected. He observed that the fact of the counter-proposals being made was a proof that the insurgents, under certain conditions, were ready to lay down their arms.

He further observed that there was nothing in the counter-proposals of the insurgent chiefs which was in opposition to the spirit of Count Andrassy's proposals.

They neither asked to be freed from the direct rule of the Sultan, nor did their counter-proposals aim at any territorial dismemberment of the Empire. The maintenance of the six garrisons in the Herzegovina and Bosnia was a proof that they projected no dismemberment of the Empire. Their object alone was to obtain some guarantee for the execution of the proposals accepted by the Porte.

His Highness stated that he regretted that the counter-proposals of the insurgents had not been taken into consideration, as they might, in his opinion, form the basis of an understanding.

From what Prince Gortchakow said, I am led to believe that he has taken steps to induce Count Andrassy to modify his opinions, with a view to a renewal of the negotiations with the insurgent chiefs. At the same time, I could perceive, from the language of the Chancellor, that he was most anxious to maintain a perfect understanding and cooperation with Austria, and to prevent anything which could lead to a divergence of opinion between the two Cabinets in regard to Eastern affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 152.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, April* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 7th instant, and its inclosure, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, up to the present moment, but little has been done to check the progress of the revolt in the Sandjak of Bihach. On the 6th, a body of about 1,500 Bashi-Bazouks were repulsed by the insurgents, but on the following day, the former, being joined by three battalions of regular troops, renewed the attack, and forced the insurgents to withdraw from the neighbourhood of Majdan.

Notwithstanding this, however, the area of the revolt seems rather to have enlarged, and bands of insurgents are reported to have been seen within twelve miles of Jaitza. The Ferik Ali Pasha has been sent from the Herzegovina to take command in the north.

A few days ago also a band of armed men crossed the Save at Kobash, but, being attacked by the troops, are said to have dispersed in the hills. Nothing more has been heard of the band that passed at Shamatz, but it is believed that the greater part re-crossed the Save into Austria.

Haidar Effendi informs me that, in consequence of representations made by the local authorities as to the continued entry into Bosnia of armed bands from Austria, the Ottoman Ambassador at Vienna has communicated to him the assurance of Count Andrassy that, in future, stricter measures shall be taken to guard the frontier.

It was reported here some days ago that the Turkish troops had again violated the Austrian frontier near Novi, but it appears that the true facts of the case are these. A number of fugitives being pursued by the troops, endeavoured to cross the Unna into Austria. The Turks fired at them while crossing, and even after they had landed on Austrian territory. The officer in command of a detachment of Austrian troops on the frontier summoned the Turks three times to cease firing, but no attention being paid to his summons, he commanded his men to fire, and three Turkish soldiers were killed and several wounded. I believe this happened on the 30th ultimo.

The state of the administration here continues to be as unsatisfactory as ever. No doubt the position of Haidar Effendi is an exceedingly difficult one. Being subordinate to the Governor-General, he cannot take the initiative in any matter, and all he seems to do is to act the part of Councillor to his Excellency. The local Medjlisses have been re-elected, exactly as in former years, and without any regard to the interests and wishes of the people in general. The "Bedel-i-askerieh," or tax in lieu of military service, is being exacted as heretofore, and payment of the "Aghnam," or tax on sheep, which should only be required in the month of June, is being demanded now. The state of the Treasury is so low that even the civil employés no longer receive their salaries, and the army contractors have such large sums to receive that they refuse to deliver any further supplies. The general impression here appears to be that matters cannot much longer go on as at present, and a painful distrust of the future is evident amongst all classes.

To add to the misery and discontent already prevailing, a very extensive conflagration occurred in the Turkish quarter of this town yesterday. A gale was blowing from the south at the time, which carried the sparks far and wide, and in a short time the town was burning at five or six different points. Every effort to stop the progress of the flames was unavailing, and it was only towards night, when the wind dropped, that the fire could be got under. The extent of the damage caused is not yet known, but it is believed that more than 120 houses in different parts of the town have been burnt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 153.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, April* 20, 1876.

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's telegraphic despatches of the 17th instant,* of which I received copies on the 19th, I have already informed your Lordship that until Prince Gortchakow declined adopting Count Andrassy's views, his Excellency looked upon an acceptance of the proposals of the insurgents as a basis of negotiation much in the same manner as the Porte have done; but it is said that M. Wessilitzky, who has arrived here, is to proceed to Constantinople, in the hope that the Turkish Government will be disposed to treat directly with him on those points of the insurgent demands in which it is alleged that an arrangement might be effected without going beyond the principles of the reforms promised by the Sultan, and the suggestions in Count Andrassy's despatch of December last.

M. Wessilitzky, however, is not looked on very favourably here, as he is said to have ambitious views of his own, and to look forward to being appointed the Governor or Prince of the Herzegovina, if that province is granted an independent administration.

The complaint of the Porte that the Prince of Montenegro did not act with good faith with a view to the fulfilment of his engagement for revictualling Nichsich during the late suspension of hostilities has apparently some foundation, and I understand that he excuses himself by saying that the Turkish authorities did not comply with his invitation to send horses from the fortress for the provisions which were ready to be forwarded to it, when he must have known that they had no horses to send.

His Highness is also suspected of a wish to obtain possession of the fortress himself, if it is obliged to capitulate, on the pretext of saving it from falling into the hands of the insurgents, but a few days will probably show how far this suspicion is well founded, as Moukhtar Pasha has failed in his attempt to revictual it.

No. 154.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying translation by Mr. Milbanke, of an extract from the "Politische Correspondenz" respecting

* See Nos. 174 and 175.

the state of the insurrection in Bosnia, and giving the latest news of the fighting between the Turkish troops and the insurgents on the 15th and 16th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Extract from the "Fremden Blatt."

(Translation.)

THE "Politische Correspondenz" gives the following news respecting the state of affairs in Bosnia, dated the Unna, April 17:—

"The Turkish Commander-in-chief has succeeded, with great difficulty, in concentrating a force of 6,000 men at Risowatz, and though the Turks give the higher figure of 9,000, their estimate is undoubtedly a wrong one. Besides, 4,000 of these are merely Redifs and Baschi-Bazouks, so that there is really only a force of 2,000 Nizams available. For it must be remembered that only these regular troops can be relied upon. For four days the Turks did not venture to attack the insurgent force of 5,000 men, who had fortified their camp with the most approved military science.

"Up to the evening of the 11th there were nothing but small skirmishes, which were, however, always attended with severe casualties. The insurgents themselves estimate their own losses at 280 men, besides a great number of wounded; and this is significant enough, as they usually reckon theirs at not more than twenty or thirty. And another very serious loss they sustained was in their leader Bejnovics, a brave and skilful commander, being dangerously wounded.

"Between the evening of the 11th and the morning of the 14th there was a cessation of hostilities, but without either side changing their positions. On the 14th the fighting was renewed, and is being carried on with great obstinacy. The object of the Turks was to force the insurgents to retreat—for fear that the insurrection should spread—to the interior of the vilayet.

"On the 14th the insurgents did not appear to be much favoured by the chances of war, in any case they kept back the usual announcement of victory; should they not succeed in the course of the next two or three days in driving the Turks back, they will be obliged to retire to Unae, where they will join the forces under Golub.

"Golub intends to attempt to surround Grahovo—a most important point for future operations, and which must be taken, cost what it may. A force of 700 Turks who attempted to frustrate Golub's intention with respect to Grahovo, were beaten and driven back by him to Klemec."

No. 155.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, April 20, 1876.*

HAVING met the Russian Ambassador to-day in Count Andrassy's anteroom, I inquired whether M. Wessilitzky had gone to Constantinople, and if not, whether he was likely to do so.

M. de Novikow appeared to know nothing of his plans, and said that his mission ended with the advice which he was authorized to offer to the insurgents in favour of peace.

I replied that as he would be unable to go to Constantinople without a passport from the Russian Embassy, his Excellency might, at all events, be aware whether he had applied for one. To this he answered that M. Wessilitzky had certainly come to Vienna to see him, but had, he believed, not yet decided whether he would go to St. Petersburgh, or possibly to Constantinople, but that would be entirely a matter of his personal convenience.

No. 156.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, April 20, 1876.*

AT an interview which I had with Count Andrassy to-day, I read to his Excellency the Memorandum, of which I inclose a copy, containing the substance of Sir Henry Elliot's telegrams of the 17th instant, respecting the impression caused at Constantinople by Prince Gortchakow's proposals to the Porte through Cabouli Pasha.

His Excellency said that he had received exactly the same information from Count Zichy, and that he had not yet sent him any observations upon it, as he did not understand why Prince Gortchakow had made the communication attributed to him, or how he proposed that the intentions which it intimated should be carried out. It did not appear, also, that General Ignatiew had received instructions on the subject, or that any official proposal had been made to the Porte.

He hoped, however, he said, to know more to-morrow, as the Russian Ambassador, who had just left him, had called to state that he had received a despatch from St. Petersburgh, with the contents of which he was still imperfectly acquainted, but that to-morrow he would be able to give him full explanations, with a view to coming to an understanding with him, as to the course which it would be expedient to adopt under present circumstances, for promoting the pacification of the Turkish Provinces.

Count Andrassy then observed that he did not believe this could be done by making new demands on the Porte; but, as the insurgents in their memorial to M. Wessilitzky had declared their readiness to return to their allegiance on the basis of the reforms promised by the Sultan, he thought means might be found for an arrangement being effected between them and the Turkish authorities, which would be satisfactory to both parties. In the meanwhile he had told M. Wessilitzky, who had called upon him, that some of the demands of the insurgents were impracticable, and could not possibly be granted; and M. Wessilitzky did not attempt to refute this opinion.

Time, however, would evidently be necessary for the Porte and the insurgents to come to an understanding; and he, therefore, greatly regretted that his proposal for the prolongation of the armistice had not been accepted.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Memorandum.

HER Majesty's Government have been informed that the Porte has been advised through the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to express its readiness to examine the counter proposals of the insurgents, in which case Prince Gortchakow would advise the Chiefs to open communications with the Turkish authorities. As the Porte, however, is of opinion that an assent to this suggestion would be sanctioning in some degree Russian intervention, Cabouli Pasha has been instructed to express the regret with which his Government have learnt that the Governments of Austria and of Russia, after having approved as sufficient the offers of the Porte, should now recommend it to examine new demands put forward by the insurgents, and of which the Porte has received no official communication.

The Turkish Government appear also to be surprised and pained at finding that the support of Austria and Russia, which had been promised if the Porte would follow a certain course, is to be withheld. They will pay, however, attention to any reasonable proposals which may be made to them directly by the insurgents, and meanwhile additional troops will be sent to the Herzegovina and to Scutari; the latter measure being adopted without any intention of attacking Montenegro, but with a view to being prepared for active hostility on the part of Prince Nicolas, in whose assurances recent events have proved that no reliance can be placed.

No. 157.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, April* 24.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, April* 19, 1876.

THE Turkish Consul-General has informed me that the bands, which have entered Bosnia from the Austrian military frontier, were organised in Servia, had then proceeded separately to a given point on the Austrian frontier, and crossed during the night.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 158.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 24 *Avril*, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de Son Excellence Rachid Pacha au sujet de la prétendue décision de la Sublime Porte de déclarer la guerre au Monténégro.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, April* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency the inclosed copy of a despatch which I have just received by telegraph from his Excellency Raschid Pasha on the subject of the alleged decision of the Porte to declare war against Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 23 *Avril*, 1876.

UN télégramme que nous venons de recevoir de Cabouli Pasha nous informe que le Prince Gortchakow ayant convoqué, au nom de l'Empereur, les Représentants des Grandes Puissances, leur a dit qu'à la suite d'un Conseil des Ministres, la Sublime Porte avait décidé de déclarer la guerre au Monténégro ; que la Russie seule ne pourrait conjurer un débordement général ; que la Sublime Porte, en prenant cette décision, aurait mis elle-même l'étincelle à la poudre ; qu'il craignait que la révolte ne se propageât aux autres parties de la Turquie ; que la Servie, la Grèce même ne fissent cause commune avec leur co-religionnaires, et qu'il proposait aux Grandes Puissances de s'unir à la Russie et de faire des démarches promptes et identiques pour faire revenir la Sublime Porte sur sa décision. Cabouli Pasha ajoute qu'en même temps le Prince Gortchakow a fait entendre à ces mêmes Représentants que la Russie ne consentira pas à ce que le Monténégro soit attaqué. Tous les Représentants ont répondu que leurs Gouvernements prêteront leur concours à l'Empereur pour dissuader la Sublime Porte et maintenir le *statu quo* actuel de l'Europe et la paix générale.

Ainsi que je l'ai télégraphié à Cabouli Pasha, il est complètement inexact que la Sublime Porte a pris la détermination d'attaquer le Monténégro. Un bruit analogue ayant été répandu ici dans le public, nous nous sommes empressés d'informer de l'état réel des choses les Représentants des Grandes Puissances qui ont été complètement rassurés. En effet, Moukhtar Pacha ayant, dans sa marche pour ravitailler Nichsich, rencontré un corps de Monténégrins, le Gouvernement Impérial a dû, comme une mesure de précaution pour l'avenir, décider de réunir quelques troupes à Scutari d'Albani.

En dehors de cela, nous n'avons même pas délibéré jusqu'à présent sur une action quelconque dépassant cette mesure.

Veuillez communiquer d'urgence ce qui précède au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, en ajoutant qu'il suffira aux Puissances, dont nous connaissons le sincère désir de contribuer à la pacification, d'empêcher strictement toute participation à l'insurrection de la part des Monténégrins pour qu'il n'y ait évidemment lieu à aucune mesure militaire de la part de la Sublime Porte.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 23, 1876.

A TELEGRAM just received from Cabouly Pasha, informs us that Prince Gortchakow assembled the Representatives of the Great Powers, in the name of the Emperor, and told them that in consequence of a resolution come to by a Council of Ministers, the Sublime Porte had decided to declare war on Montenegro; that Russia alone could not avert a general outbreak; that the Sublime Porte, in taking this decision, would have itself kindled the flame; that he feared the revolt would spread to the rest of Turkey; that Servia, even Greece, would make common cause with their brethren in religion; and that he proposed that the Great Powers should join with Russia in promptly taking steps to induce the Sublime Porte to reconsider the determination it had come to. Cabouly Pasha added that at the same time Prince Gortchakow gave the Representatives of the Great Powers to understand that Russia would not allow Montenegro to be attacked. All the Representatives answered that their Governments would co-operate with the Emperor in dissuading the Sublime Porte from carrying out its intention, and in maintaining the existing *status quo* in Europe and general peace.

It is, as I have telegraphed to Cabouly Pasha, altogether untrue that the Sublime Porte has determined to attack Montenegro. A similar rumour was spread here, whereupon we hastened to inform the Representatives of the Great Powers of the real state of affairs, and they were completely reassured. The real state of the case is that Moukhtar Pasha having, on his march to revictual Nichsich, met a body of Montenegrins, the Imperial Government thought it right as a measure of precaution for the future to assemble some troops at Scutari in Albania.

With this exception, we have not, up to the present time, even deliberated on any action going beyond this measure.

Be so good as to communicate the preceding without loss of time to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and add that if the Powers, with whose sincere desire to co-operate in bringing about a pacification we are well acquainted, will strictly forbid Montenegro to take any part in the insurrection, it will be quite sufficient to prevent the Sublime Porte's requiring to have recourse to any measures of a military nature.

No. 159.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 24, 1876.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has repeated to me Prince Gortchakow's proposal as reported in Lord A. Loftus' telegram of the 22nd instant,† that the Powers should instruct their Representatives at Constantinople to remonstrate with the Porte respecting a contemplated attack on Montenegro.

In reply, I informed him of the positive assurance contained in your telegram of the 22nd,‡ that the Porte has no intention of attacking Montenegro, and I added that, under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government presume that the joint action of the Representatives at Constantinople is not called for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 160.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(Extract.) *Ragusa, April* 17, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the account given in the "Montenegrin Journal" of the 13th instant, of the meeting between General Rodich and the insurgent chiefs at Suttorina.

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* The substance of this despatch was telegraphed.

† See No. 163.

‡ See No. 201.

Inclosure in No. 160.

Extract from the "Montenegrin Journal" of April 1/13, 1876.

(Translation.)

RESPECTING the meeting between the insurgent chiefs and General Rodich, lately held at Suttorina, we have received the following account:—

As soon as the insurgent chiefs arrived at Suttorina on the 26th March General Rodich sent to them the Vice-Consuls of Austria at Trebigné, Vercevic, and Lazarevic, bearing with them the Andrassy Reforms. These gentlemen went to the Insurgents and said that they came in the name of Rodich, and by his orders to read to them the aforesaid Reforms. Lazara Sociza replied that the Chiefs had been invited to the meeting by General Rodich alone, who desired to hold personal converse with them, and that on this understanding they had come to the meeting, and did not wish to listen to anyone but him. Both of the Envoys assented to this answer, and went to Rodich to tell him what they had heard from the Chiefs.

In pursuance of this General Rodich at once went to Suttorina; the Chiefs awaited him in solemnity; Sociza sent two of his followers to meet him. General Rodich shook hands with each and saluted; then, as soon as they had seated themselves, the General spoke: he explained the Andrassy Reforms, and took care to minimize the hopes that the Insurgents might have from Russia and Montenegro. The sense of his speech was this: "Montenegro is not in a position to help, and as for Russia, you know that twenty years ago, when she made war against Turkey she was beaten, so that, except from Austria, you have no hope, and if you do not listen to Austria, the blood hitherto shed will have been shed in vain." The Chiefs replied to General Rodich "that they had understood every thing; to-day they must discuss among themselves, and to-morrow would give a reply; and if their reply were to be a moderate one, it would be owing to their love of Austria." General Rodich, satisfied with this, returned to Castelnuovo. The Chiefs accompanied him to the frontier. The next day, at the appointed hour, the Chiefs sent four commanders to General Rodich, as far as the frontier, to accompany him to the meeting place. The discussion began again. The Chiefs pictured in vivid colours the condition of the Herzegovine and their own wishes, finally they consigned to General Rodich a document containing their aspirations. (*Here follows an analysis of the six points demanded.*) This reply was signed by thirty chiefs. General Rodich received it, and having read it replied, "that he could say nothing to their demands, only that in the quickest way he would refer them to the Emperor, who was profoundly interested in their welfare; and as you do not choose to lay down your arms and return to your homes, you know what you are about; but no one will help you as long as you remain in arms." Thus ended the parley. All the Chiefs accompanied the General, and with mutual salutes they separated. General Rodich returned to Castelnuovo, the Chiefs remained at Suttorina till the morrow, and then returned to the Army.

This is in effect what we have received respecting this most important meeting. In an early number we shall speak of the Andrassy Reforms and of the Insurgent demands, and we shall show how, whether it is wished or not, it is necessary that the wishes of the Insurgents be granted if peace is desired, and this meeting is to have a beneficial result for the nation.

No. 161.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26.)

My Lord, *Scutari, April 15, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report that information has reached me that a body of Insurgents has burnt the Moslem village of Gratchenitza, in the district of Brani, where the insurrection in the Herzegovina first broke out, but where it had been believed the Turks had regained the mastery.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 162.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, April 20, 1876.*

I HAD an interview with Prince Gortchakow this day, and we had some conversation on Eastern affairs.

His Highness considered that the negotiations hitherto carried on through Baron Rodich are exhausted; that the Porte, by the action of Moukhtar Pasha, had appealed to arms; and that the European Powers had only now to await the decision of the conflict.

Prince Gortchakow said, "La parole est aux canons, et il faut attendre une dizaine de jours pour savoir l'issue du combat."

I found Prince Gortchakow anxious to maintain the existing concert of the European Powers, and to avoid any complications which might produce discord among them. He stated very frankly to me that Russia had no interested policy; that she coveted no extension of territory (adding that she had already too much, and that he had always opposed her extension in Central Asia). All that Russia aimed at was the maintenance of peace in Europe and the amelioration of the condition of the Christian population of Turkey.

I am happy to inform your Lordship that the difference of opinion which had sprung up with Austria on the subject of the counter proposals of the insurgents has entirely been removed, and that a perfect understanding has been restored between the Imperial Governments.

Count Andrassy has recognized the force and justice of the views of Prince Gortchakow, and has acceded to them.

No. 163.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 22, 1876.*

I RECEIVED a note this morning from Prince Gortchakow requesting me to call on him at 12.

On my arrival at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs I found assembled there the French, German, Austrian, and Italian Ambassadors.

Prince Gortchakow then stated to me that he had convened us by order of the Emperor; he stated that he had received a telegram last evening from General Ignatiew reporting that, after a Council of War at Constantinople on the 20th instant, the Porte had decided to attack Montenegro as soon as the requisite force could be assembled at Scutari; that a portion of the Turkish forces now on the Servian frontier would co-operate in the attack on the Herzegovinian frontier; that the new Minister of War, Dervisch Pasha, had undertaken to reduce Montenegro, and to put down the insurrection, and the Sultan had consented to advance the necessary funds from his private purse.

This intelligence, the Prince said, had produced a most painful impression on the mind of the Emperor, and by His Majesty's orders he had instructed General Ignatiew to remonstrate with the Porte in the most energetic and peremptory language against a course which could only lead to the ruin of the Turkish Empire.

He had convened the Representatives of the Powers who had co-operated in the efforts which had been made for the pacification of the insurgent provinces in order to make this communication to them, and to request them to invite their respective Governments to send similar instructions to their Representatives at Constantinople.

His Highness observed that no time should be lost in giving due warning to the Turkish Government of the danger of the course they were about to take, and he hoped for the continued action of the European Powers with a view to avert it.

My colleagues and myself assented to the request of Prince Gortchakow, and stated that we should immediately report to our Governments the communication which His Highness had addressed to us.

I inquired whether any motive had been given for this unexpected, grave decision of the Porte.

Prince Gortchakow replied that none had been mentioned in the telegram of General Ignatiew, but that it had evidently arisen from the telegram of Moukhtar Pasha, which had reported that 7,000 Montenegrins had taken part with the insurgents in the late combat in the Herzegovina.

I took occasion to observe that, in justice to Turkey, an inquiry should be made as to the truth of the statement made by Moukhtar Pasha. Prince Gortchakow remarked that in those countries all peasants were dressed alike, and were always armed.

His Highness did not believe the statement of Moukhtar Pasha, and considered that it had been used as a justification of his defeat.

Prince Gortchakow then entered into an explanation of his late interview with Cabouli Pasha, and of the sensation which the Pasha's telegram relating to it had caused at Constantinople, and read a letter he had addressed to General Ignatiew on the subject.

In that letter Prince Gortchakow informed General Ignatiew that, on being asked to support the advice given to the insurgent chiefs by General Rodich, viz., to refer their counter-proposals to the Turkish authorities, he (the Prince) had replied that he would willingly do so, provided that he was certain that the Porte would consent to receive those proposals, and to treat with the bearers of them. But the Porte had declined all negotiations, and had appealed to arms.

His Highness further stated in his letter that the Imperial Government had never, as stated by the Porte, given any promise that if the Andrassy note were accepted by the Porte the insurrection should be quelled. All that Russia had done was to promise that her best efforts should be given towards the pacification on the condition that the reforms accepted by the Porte should be faithfully carried out. He had therefore asked Cabouli Pasha if he could cite one single instance in which any of the promises given by the Porte had been yet carried out. Not a single step, said the Prince, has yet been made by the Porte towards the fulfilment of those promises.

Prince Gortchakow then referred briefly to the question of the revictualling of Nichsich, observing that the Turks had collected provisions for many months, and not for the sole period of the duration of the armistice, and that the Prince of Montenegro had been unable to send the provisions agreed upon from want of transport, none of the neighbouring peasantry consenting to aid him in doing so.

I here observed that the armistice had been concluded on the condition of the fortress being revictualled, and that it was to be regretted that this condition had not been fulfilled.

The Ambassadors having each assured the Prince that they would immediately report to their Governments the communication His Highness had made, then retired.

I have only to add that the crisis is serious, and I could observe that Prince Gortchakow was evidently impressed with the gravity of the events to which it may lead.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 164.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 26.)

(Extract.) *Berlin, April* 23, 1876.

ON receiving Sir H. Elliot's telegrams of the 20th and 21st instant* from your Lordship, respecting the probable outbreak of hostilities between Turkey and Montenegro, I endeavoured to ascertain the opinion of the German Government on this new phase of the question, but hearing that the Chancellor and the Foreign Secretary were both unfortunately unwell, I had to seek for information elsewhere.

It appears that the German Government received the same news on the 20th instant from the German Ambassador at Constantinople as that sent by Sir H. Elliot, and on the following day a telegram from Prince Gortchakow to Berlin confirmed the report of this danger of a conflict with Montenegro on the authority of General Ignatiew.

Your Lordship received the same telegram on the 21st from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, stating that Prince Gortchakow considered negotiations to be for the present exhausted, and that Turkey would probably appeal to arms.

Later Prince Gortchakow also telegraphed that if Turkey attacked Montenegro, Russia could no longer be responsible for, or insist upon, the neutrality of Servia.

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* See Nos. 199 and 200.

No. 165.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April 26.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 26 Avril*, 1876.

MOUKHTAR PACHA vient de recevoir l'ordre de partir de Gatchka avec des forces suffisantes pour aller ravitailler la place de Nikchik.

Nos informations portent que le Prince du Monténégro concentre toutes ses forces de ce côté, et qu'il se prépare activement à prendre une part sérieuse à la lutte qui va s'engager dans les défilés de Douga. Les conséquences graves d'une telle participation de la part du Monténégro ne sauraient échapper à la haute sagesse des Puissances. Connaissant leurs dispositions bienveillantes et amicales, et surtout leur ardent et loyal désir de localiser la lutte, de l'apaiser et notamment de prévenir de nouvelles complications, en présence, enfin, de toute la déférence que nous avons témoignée jusqu'à ce jour en suivant de point en point leurs conseils et leurs suggestions amicales tendant à ramener un moment plus tôt l'ordre et la paix, nous nous croyons en droit de nourrir le ferme espoir qu'elles exerceront la plus énergique pression à Cettigné, et qu'usant de toute leur influence auprès du Prince, elles le détourneront d'un tel projet pour l'amener à observer une stricte neutralité.

Veuillez communiquer d'urgence ce qui précède au Cabinet près duquel vous êtes accrédité et me télégraphier sa réponse.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 26*, 1876.

MOUKHTAR PASHA has just received orders to set out from Gatchko with sufficient forces to revictual the fortified town of Nichsich.

From the information which has reached us we learn that the Prince of Montenegro is concentrating his forces in this direction, and that he is making active preparations to take serious part in the conflict which will shortly commence in the defiles near Douga. Were Montenegro thus to take part in the struggle, the Powers cannot fail to be aware of the serious consequences which would ensue. As we are well acquainted with their friendly disposition towards us, and above all with their eager desire to localise the strife; and considering, more especially, all the deference we have shown up to the present time in following in every respect their advice and their friendly suggestions tending to bring about, as soon as possible, the return of order and tranquillity, we think that we have the right to cherish a firm hope that they will exercise the most energetic pressure at Cettigné, and that availing themselves of all the influence they possess with the Prince, they will dissuade him from such a project, and induce him to observe a strict neutrality.

Be so good as to communicate the preceding without loss of time to the Cabinet to which you are accredited, and you will send to me their answer by telegraph.

No. 166.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, April 26*, 1876.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 23rd instant,* in which you inform me that Count Beust reports that I had entertained the view that territorial concessions to Montenegro might be impending, I have to state to your Excellency that no communication has passed recently between Count Beust and myself on the subject.

I have not given any support to the proposed cession of territory to Montenegro under present circumstances; not feeling sure whether any such proposal might not be regarded as a proof of weakness on the part of the Porte, and so encourage rather than disarm opposition; but I think it a question well worthy of consideration whether, in the event of peace being restored, the cession to Montenegro of some territory situated in the plain might not be advantageous.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* See No. 167.

No. 167.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April* 23, 1876.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegrams,* reporting a threatened declaration of war by Turkey against Montenegro, I addressed the letters to Count Andrassy, of which I inclose copies herewith, and his Excellency having subsequently requested me to meet him to-day, he has acquainted me fully with his views upon the subject, and the language which the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed to hold upon it.

In the first place, his Excellency said he considered the complaint of Mouktar Pasha, that a large force of Montenegrins had taken part in the conflicts before Nichsich, as a calumny invented to cover his own inability to accomplish the object of his expedition, as his Excellency has not only received a positive denial from Prince Nicolas that any Montenegrin force acknowledging his authority had crossed the frontier to join the insurgents, but at the moment when Mouktar Pasha marched from Mostar, His Highness was endeavouring to arrange for the safe passage of a convoy of supplies to Nichsich, and was urging that no time should be lost in effecting a prolongation of the suspension of hostilities, as Mouktar Pasha was believed to be preparing for immediately resuming them.

The assertion, therefore, of the Prince, that he has strictly maintained his engagements, and that he intends to continue to do so, has been accepted here as trustworthy.

Such being the case, Count Andrassy said that, on learning that Dervish Pasha was advocating a declaration of war against Montenegro, he had instructed Count Zichy to represent strongly to the Porte the danger of such a measure, both in a political and a military point of view, for the same reasons on which Sir Henry Elliot appears to have recommended the Turkish Ministers to consider the certain and the probable eventualities which it would involve; and Count Zichy had also been instructed to intimate that, from information which had been received from Montenegro, Count Andrassy believed that nothing had occurred which could justify a declaration of war against the Principality, and that the Emperor would therefore look upon such a war as an act of aggression, which would entirely change the position of the Austro-Hungarian Government in the question, and render them unable to continue the facilities they have hitherto afforded to the operations of the Turkish army by keeping open the Port of Klek.

Whereas, if the Turkish Government continued to act as hitherto for the suppression of the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovine, whilst assistance from without would be afforded to them, the Austro-Hungarian Government would do everything in its power to bring about a pacification of the insurgent provinces, on the basis of the reforms promised by the Sultan and the provisions in Count Andrassy's note of the 30th December last.

I said that, as Prince Gortchakow has declared that a perfect understanding has been again established between the Austrian and Russian Governments, his Excellency had probably received some explanations of the recent language of the Russian Chancellor to Cabouly Pasha, if the programme originally agreed upon is to be maintained. His Excellency answered that, as he believed from the first, Prince Gortchakow had spoken to Cabouly Pasha without due consideration, but that, on reflection, he had not supported his language to the Turkish Ambassador by instructions to General Ignatiew; and the two Governments were now agreed to act together in availing themselves of any opportunity which may offer to bring about a suspension of hostilities, and to promote an arrangement on the basis established by the Porte's acceptance of the proposals in the December despatch. The insurgents will therefore, his Excellency said, be advised to communicate directly with the Turkish authorities, with a view to carrying out the reforms and concessions promised by the Porte; and their wishes with respect to details will be supported at Constantinople by the two Governments, as far as they may remain within the provisions of the despatch. His Excellency added that, in his opinion, a strict adherence to the agreement come to with the Porte is essential to a successful issue of the negotiations, and any symptom of a disposition to deviate from it would deprive the Powers of the confidence of the Porte, and increase the pretensions and obstinacy of the insurgents.

He then said that he regretted to learn that Count Beust appeared, from one of his late reports, to be under an impression that your Lordship was of opinion that it might be expedient to grant territorial concessions to Montenegro, with a view to securing Prince Nicolas's honest co-operation in any future measures which may be adopted for promoting a satisfactory arrangement.

Count Andrassy said he could not concur in this view of the case, not only because

* Repetitions of telegrams from Sir H. Elliot. For substance see Nos. 199 and 200.

no cessions could be granted to Montenegro, which Servia would not immediately claim; but if once the possibility of territorial changes were admitted, the Croats would lay claim to Turkish Croatia, Roumania would have something to ask for, and Greece, whose neutrality was declared on the condition that no territorial changes should take place, would also come forward with her pretensions.

Besides, he said, that personally he could never be a party to an arrangement of the kind. To be trusted by those with whom he has to deal has always been, in his opinion, an essential to success, in private and in political affairs; and as it is alleged that Montenegro encouraged the outbreak of the insurrection to promote her own interests, he will not expose himself to the risk of being reproached by the Porte, that when he was asking the Sultan to adopt necessary reforms in the insurgent provinces, he was really looking forward to obtain from the Porte a cession of territory to Montenegro. Nor did he choose to be looked upon as the dupe of others, who may be alleged to have had such views. One or other of those alternatives, either that he had been disloyal to the Porte, or that he had been the dupe of others, would attach in the eyes of the world to his recommending a cession of territory to Montenegro; and he could not submit to either of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed). ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 167.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

Dear Count Andrassy, *Vienna, Friday evening, April* 21, 1876.

I THINK it right to acquaint you, though your Excellency has probably received the same information, that from reports which have reached Lord Derby from other sources, and one from Constantinople, dated to-day, there appears to be serious reason to fear that the Porte will declare war to Montenegro.

It is not only Mouktar Pasha who considers such a war expedient, but there is so strong and general a feeling in favour of it at Constantinople that there seems to be little chance of its being avoided, and the Sultan has already ordered troops to be despatched to Scutari.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 167.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

Dear Count Andrassy, *Vienna, April* 22, 1876.

SINCE I wrote a few lines to you this evening reporting Sir Henry Elliott's hope that an immediate declaration of war by the Porte against Montenegro might yet be avoided, I have received the copy of another telegram which he addressed last night to Lord Derby, and, as I find that is expresses my own opinions, I have decided to send to you, as I may not have opportunity immediately of speaking to you on the subject.

Surely it will be monstrous if the peace of Europe is to be compromised in consequence of assistance being given from Montenegro to the insurrection in violation of Prince Nicolas's promise to Austria and Russia that the neutrality of the Principality would be strictly enforced, and I am very hopeful that you will yet devise some way of opening the road to Nichsich, and bringing the negotiations which you have conducted so far successfully to a satisfactory issue.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 168.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, April* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, communicating a copy of a telegram from your Government denying the accuracy of the

report that, in sending troops to Scutari, in Albania, they contemplated an attack on Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 169.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April 27, 1876.*

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram of yesterday,* I have to instruct your Excellency to explain to the Russian Government that Her Majesty's Government have not declined to act in concert with the other Powers in the matter of an apprehended attack by the Porte on Montenegro, but that any remonstrances have been anticipated, since the Porte has denied all intention of attacking the Principality.

Her Majesty's Government were under the impression that this was understood by the Governments to whom the Russian Government had appealed.

The telegram from Constantinople announcing that the Porte had no intention of attacking Montenegro was received on the 22nd instant, the same day as the telegram from St. Petersburgh, reporting Prince Gortchakow's proposal to Lord A. Loftus.

Sir Henry Elliot has been duly informed, and will be instructed to explain, if necessary, that there has been no such separation as Prince Gortchakow supposes might be believed to have arisen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 170.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April 24, 1876.*

IN forwarding to your Lordship a despatch from Mr. Monson of the 19th instant, which I received this morning under flying seal, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Major Gonne, to whom it refers as having visited Montenegro, has done so entirely on his own responsibility and without instructions from me. I therefore inclose a copy of the instructions which I gave him on requesting him to convey a despatch to Mr. Monson; and I informed him verbally, on his expressing a wish to visit the Dalmatian coast as far as Cattaro, and to return to Vienna by Mostar and Banjaluka, that I saw no objection to his doing so, if he only took care not to expose himself to risks, which might cause embarrassment to Her Majesty's Government.

I offer your Lordship these explanations, as I believe that Sir Henry Elliot considered it inexpedient for any British agent to visit Cettigné under present circumstances, and I had consequently therefore refused to sanction a wish of Mr. Monson to go there.

I cannot, however, regret that Major Gonne has visited Montenegro, as he will be able to give Her Majesty's Government authentic information as to the part the Principality is taking in the Herzegovinian question; and your Lordship will doubtless regret to learn that he is already under an impression, from what he has seen and heard, that the war is virtually carried on by Montenegro.

With respect to the numbers of insurgents who may have been engaged in the recent combats in the Duga Pass, and with reference to a statement published by a Vienna newspaper of the 20th instant, and reported in my despatch of the 21st instant, estimating the strength of the insurgent bands, I beg to add that the statement in question contained in detail the number of men furnished by each district, and the name of the chief by whom they were commanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

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* See No. 187.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Sir A. Buchanan to Major Gonne.

Sir, *Vienna, April 7, 1876.*

I HAVE to request that you will proceed to Ragusa, as the bearer of a despatch-bag to Mr. Monson, which you will receive at Pesth, and deliver into his own hands.

Being in Dalmatia, you can collect any information which you may think of interest to the War Office.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 171.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

(Extract.) *Ragusa, April 19, 1876.*

THE usual contradictory telegrams have been received in Ragusa by the respective partisans of the Turks and the insurgents, with regard to the military events in the Duga Pass.

The Turks have shown me official telegrams stating that Moukhtar Pasha has telegraphed from Gatzko announcing the success of his operations; his having left the provisions for Nichsich at a fort distant four hours from that town; and his return to Gatzko, after six days' fighting with an enemy whose numbers he estimates at 14,000, with a loss of only 31 killed.

The insurgent sympathisers declare that Moukhtar Pasha has not yet extricated himself from the Duga Pass, and that he is still in extreme danger, without having attained his object, namely, the provisioning of Nichsich. Both sides speak of a truce having been demanded, without specifying by whom.

I write this more to show your Lordship the difficulty of arriving at any correct notion of military events in the Herzegovina, than with any idea that I am supplying information to Her Majesty's Government.

Major Gonne, the Military Attaché to Majesty's Embassy at Vienna, passed by Ragusa at two this morning, on his way to Cettigné direct. He told me that he should try to push on as far as Nichsich.

No. 172.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 27, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador called to-day at the Foreign Office, and stated that from intelligence received at St. Petersburgh it appeared that all the Powers, with the exception of England, had made representations to the Porte with regard to the apprehended attack on Montenegro.

Is it a fact that the Ambassadors have taken this step, in spite of the assurances of the Porte that an attack on Montenegro is not in contemplation?

No. 173.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of an official telegram published to-day by the Porte announcing the defeat near Kagach on the Save of a body of insurgents which has passed from the Austrian side of that river.

It is probable that the strength of this band is exaggerated in the official report: but as they have been driven back into Austrian territories it is to be hoped that they will be disarmed by the authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Extract from "La Turquie" of April 13, 1876.

UN télégramme en date du 30 Mars (11 Avril) de son Excellence Haydar Effendi, annonce à la Sublime Porte qu'à une heure de distance de Kayach, sur le Save, un combat de trois heures et demie a eu lieu entre les troupes Impériales et un millier d'insurgés, venus de l'autre rive. Les troupes ont eu trois morts et six blessés. Les insurgés, dont les pertes s'élèvent à 150 morts et autant de blessés, ont pris la fuite. Ayant été poursuivis par les troupes, une partie des insurgés ont repassé, par les barques qu'ils tenaient à leur disposition, sur la rive Autrichienne. Le reste de la bande s'est réfugié dans les montagnes voisines. Le commandant de la station, le Lieutenant Akif Effendi, informe qu'il a expédié des troupes en nombre suffisant pour poursuivre et chasser les insurgés dispersés dans les montagnes.

(Translation.)

A TELEGRAM from his Excellency Haydar Effendi, dated March 30 (April 11) acquaints the Sublime Porte that, at a distance of an hour from Kayach, on the Save, an engagement lasting three and a-half hours has taken place between the Imperial troops and 1,000 insurgents, who came from the other side of the river. The insurgents, whose losses amount to 150 killed and as many wounded, took to flight. Being pursued by the troops, a portion of the insurgents recrossed to the Austrian bank in the boats which they had at hand. The rest of the band took refuge in the neighbouring mountains. The Commandant of the station, Lieutenant Akif Effendi, reports that he has despatched a sufficient number of troops to pursue and expel the insurgents who are scattered in the mountains.

No. 174.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 17, 1876.

I LEARN from Raschid Pasha that the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh reports Prince Gortchakow to have said that the Porte should express a readiness to examine the last propositions of the insurgents, in which case the Russian Government would instruct their Agents to advise the Chiefs to enter into communication with the Ottoman authorities.

The Porte considers that this would be a certain step towards direct foreign interference.

The concessions of the Porte had been approved and considered sufficient by both Austria and Russia, which had promised to recommend their acceptance by the insurgents, and Cabouli Pasha is instructed to express the surprise and regret felt by the Sultan's Government that, after having frankly followed the course that was advised, they should now be urged to declare themselves ready to examine demands of which they have not even official cognizance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 175.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, April* 17, 1876.

EVERY attention will be paid to any reasonable propositions or demands made directly to the Turkish authorities by the insurgents, but the Porte will not be a party to delusive negotiations carried on by agents in whose good faith they can place no confidence.

Additional troops will be at once sent to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and likewise to Scutari, for while there is no intention of attacking Montenegro, so little trust can be placed in the assurances of the Prince that the Porte is bound to be prepared for any emergency which may arise.

No. 176.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April* 27.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 26 *Avril*, 1876.

MON télégramme du 23 courant vous a fait connaître le peu de fondement des bruits qui ont circulé sur une soi-disant agression offensive de notre part vis-à-vis du Monténégro. Nous avons été d'autant plus surpris de voir qu'on ait pu ajouter foi à un pareil mouvement irréfléchi de la part du Gouvernement Impérial, que nos actes, et la ligne de conduite que nous nous sommes invariablement tracée jusqu'à ce jour, nous mettaient en droit d'être persuadés de la ferme croyance des Cabinets en notre prudence et en nos intentions loyales. En effet, qu'avons-nous fait jusqu'à présent qui ait pu démentir le moins du monde la confiance inébranlable que nous avons placée dans les promesses de co-opération morale qu'ont bien voulu nous donner les Puissances, en vue de la prompte pacification de nos districts insurgés, et les assurances que nous avons maintes-fois reçues d'elles sur la parfaite et absolue neutralité du Monténégro vis-à-vis de l'insurrection? N'avons-nous pas en tout, et pour tout, témoigné de la plus grande déférence pour les conseils bienveillants des Gouvernements Européens, en adoptant leurs suggestions relatives aux réformes complémentaires applicables en Bosnie et dans l'Herzégovine, en nous conformant strictement aux mesures de pacification, et aux délais accordés aux rebelles qui nous ont été conseillés, en décrétant l'amnistie, pleine et entière, avec toutes ses conséquences, pour le bien-être matériel des insurgés qui se soumettraient, ainsi que toutes les facilités voulues pour le rapatriement, la réinstallation des réfugiés, en usant surtout de la plus éclatante modération dans toutes les péripéties de l'insurrection, et ce à l'encontre même de l'opinion publique, lasse enfin de toutes les atrocités commises par les bandes, et de la prolongation indéfinie d'une lutte dont elle considère la répression comme trop restreinte? Nous n'avons donc voulu, et ne voulons encore revendiquer nos droits incontestables dans toutes ces affaires, autrement qu'en nous appuyant sur les avis et le concours moral, mais "efficace," des Puissances pour le prompt apaisement de la révolte. Nous ne nous laisserons entraîner à aucune précipitation inconsidérée, à aucun acte de nature à mettre en doute notre confiance absolue dans les sentiments des Puissances à notré égard, mais aussi à aucune défaillance lorsqu'il s'agit de sauvegarder, dans toute son intégrité, le prestige et les droits souverains de notre auguste Maître. Et cependant, on voudra bien reconnaître avec nous que l'insurrection, loin de s'apaiser, semble relever la tête avec un cortége de prétentions littéralement inadmissible, et devenir de plus en plus intense. On ne saurait, en effet, nier d'après les rapports de nos Commandants-en-chef, que les bandes de rebelles n'augmentent en nombre, et que même des Monténégrins n'aient pris part à la lutte. A l'heure qu'il est nous recevons de tous côtés la nouvelle que des corps considérables d'insurgés, parmi lesquels encore des Monténégrins se concentrent autour de Nikchik, centre principal des opérations de nos troupes, et devant absolument être approvisionné en dépit de la promesse formelle du Prince Nicolas, de ne point laisser inquiéter le ravitaillement de cette place. En admettant même, ce qu'il nous serait difficile de supposer, qu'il puisse y avoir quelque exagération dans les rapports de nos Commandants, il n'en est pas moins vrai que la lutte tend à acquérir des proportions inquiétantes, et que surtout des montagnards y participent journellement. En présence, donc, de notre ligne de conduite que je viens de vous exposer, de la situation que nous voyons s'accentuer autour de nous, et des dispositions bienveillantes et inaltérables des Puissances, nous faisons un appel suprême à leur loyal concours moral pour mettre un terme à ces calamités, et aux crimes de lèse-humanité, qui sont quotidiennement commis par les rebelles farouches, au détriment de nos malheureuses et inoffensives populations; et tout ceci nous paraît indubitablement nous avoir mis en droit d'être convaincus qu'une action commune de la part des Grandes Puissances a dû, ou tout au moins est sur le point d'être exercée auprès du Prince de Monténégro, en vue de faire renfermer son Altesse dans les limites de la plus stricte neutralité, et de l'engager à agir avec vigueur, dans l'intérêt, non-seulement de l'apaisement de la révolte, mais aussi de la paix générale, pour empêcher la participation armée des siens à l'insurrection et pour assurer le ravitaillement de Nikchik.

Vous voudrez bien communiquer d'urgence cette dépêche à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et lui en laisser copie.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 26, 1876.

MY telegram of the 23rd instant will have acquainted you how little foundation there is in the rumours which have been in circulation as to an alleged intention of

aggression on our part against Montenegro. We have been the more surprised that anyone could give credit to reports of so rash a movement on the part of the Imperial Government, because our acts, and the line of conduct which we have invariably followed up to the present day gave us a right to count upon the firm belief of the Cabinets in our prudence, and in the uprightness of our intentions. What have we done, in fact, up to the present time, in the smallest degree inconsistent with the unshaken confidence we have placed in the promises of moral co-operation kindly given to us by the Powers, with a view to the speedy pacification of our insurgent provinces, and the assurances we have so often received from them as to the absolute and perfect neutrality of Montenegro towards the insurrection? Have we not all along showed the greatest deference to the friendly advice of the Governments of Europe by adopting their suggestions relative to complementary reforms to be adopted in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, by giving our most hearty adhesion to the measures of pacification and to the delays we have been advised to grant to the insurgents; by decreeing a full and entire amnesty, with all that it may lead to, for the sake of the material welfare of the insurgents who may give in their submission; by allowing all due facilities for the refugees returning to their homes and to their occupations; by behaving with the most striking moderation in all the changes of fortune of the insurrection, and this in the teeth of public opinion, which is weary of all the atrocities committed by the rebel bands, and of the indefinite prolongation of a strife, the suppression of which it considers too much restricted. We have not been, and are not now, desirous of claiming our indisputable rights in all these matters save by relying on the advice and the moral, but efficacious, support of the Powers for the prompt pacification of the revolt. We shall not allow ourselves to be hurried into any thoughtless line of conduct, or into any act which might cause our absolute confidence in the feelings of the Powers towards us to be called in question, but we shall not falter when it is a question of preserving, in all their integrity, the prestige and the sovereign rights of our august master. It will, however, be acknowledged that the insurrection, far from being pacified, seems to raise its head with a troop of pretensions entirely inadmissible, and to be becoming stronger and stronger. It cannot, indeed, be denied that, as stated by the reports of our Commander-in-chief, the bands of rebels are increasing in number, and that even Montenegrins have taken part in the struggle. At the present time we are receiving from all quarters the news that considerable bodies of insurgents, among whom are some Montenegrins, are concentrating around Nichsich, the chief centre of the operations of our troops, and a place which must absolutely be revictualled, in spite of the formal promise given by Prince Nicolas not to allow the revictualling of this place to be disturbed. Even admitting, what it would be difficult to believe, that there may be some exaggeration in the reports of our Commanders, it is none the less true that the conflict is acquiring proportions which may well make us uneasy, and, above all, that mountaineers take part in it every day. Taking into account, then, the line of conduct which I have just laid before you, and the state of affairs which we see daily growing more and more marked around us, and considering the friendly and unchangeable disposition shown by the Powers, we make a last appeal for their upright moral support, with a view to put an end to these calamities, and to the crimes of high treason against humanity, daily committed by the ferocious rebels, to the destruction of our unhappy and inoffensive subjects. All this appears undoubtedly to give us the right of feeling convinced that the common action of the Great Powers must have been, or is at least on the point of being, brought to bear on the Prince of Montenegro, with a view to induce His Highness to confine himself to the strictest neutrality, and to urge him to act vigorously in the interest not only of pacifying this revolt, but in that of general peace; to prevent an armed participation of his subjects in the insurrection; and to secure the revictualling of Nichsich.

Be so good as to communicate this despatch without loss of time to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to leave a copy of it with him.

No. 177.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, April* 28, 1876.

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires called at the Foreign Office on the 24th instant, and stated that he was instructed to inquire whether Her Majesty's Government were willing to join the Russian and other Governments in counselling the Porte to abstain from making an attack on Montenegro which was said to be contemplated.

I informed the Chargé d'Affaires that Her Majesty's Government had received a report, by telegraph, from your Excellency of Prince Gortchakow having convened a meeting of the Ambassadors and made to them a similar proposal.

On the same day, however, the 22nd instant, a telegram had been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting that he had received a positive assurance from the Minister of War that there was no intention of attacking Montenegro. I understood that like intelligence had also been received from the French Embassy by the French Government, and the Turkish Ambassador had communicated to Her Majesty's Government a telegram from the Porte denying that any attack on Montenegro had been contemplated, or anything even discussed at the Porte beyond the assembling of some troops at Scutari in Albania.

Under these circumstances I presumed that the joint representation proposed by the Russian Government would not be necessary.

I added that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople would be told of the proposal made by Prince Gortchakow having been repeated to Her Majesty's Government, and of my having answered that, under the circumstances, the joint action of the Foreign Ambassadors at Constantinople did not seem to be called for.

I at the same time expressed to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires my thanks for the friendly communication of the views of his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 178.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 28, 1876.

A TELEGRAM from the Porte has been communicated to me by Musurus Pasha to the effect that Mouhktar Pasha has been desired to leave Gatchko with a force sufficient for the revictualling of Nichsich, and that information has reached them that the Prince of Montenegro is concentrating his forces on that side in order to take an active part in the hostilities in the Douga Pass.

The Porte considers that, in view of the deference shown by Turkey to the wishes of the Powers, the latter should exert their influence to restrain the Prince from giving effect to his project, and endeavour to induce him to observe a strict neutrality.

Her Majesty's Government think there is justice in the representation made by the Porte, and they trust that the other Powers will concur with them and counsel the Prince of Montenegro strongly accordingly.

Her Majesty's Government consider that as the Porte has disclaimed all intention of attacking Montenegro, the latter should be called upon to maintain an efficient neutrality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Similar despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Constantinople, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and Rome.

No. 179.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 29.)

My Lord, *Rome, April* 24, 1876.

M. MELEGARI informed me yesterday of a communication made within the last few days by Prince Gortchakow to the Representatives of the Great Powers at St. Petersburgh collectively, which concluded by a request that they would urge their respective Governments to join Russia in intimating to the Porte not to make war on Montenegro.

Your Lordship will have learnt through the Italian Chargé d'Affaires in London that the Italian Government, impressed with the gravity of the complications to which this act on the part of the Sultan's Government would give rise, had sent instructions to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to support the Russian representation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 180.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April* 30.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 30 *Avril,* 1876.

MOUKHTAR PACHA, après avoir complètement battu les insurgés et pris possession de leurs positions, est entré hier à Nikchik.

Détails suivront.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 30, 1876.

MOUKHTAR PASHA, after having completely beaten the insurgents, and captured their positions, entered Nichsich yesterday.

Details will follow.

No. 181.

Ali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April* 30.)

(Télégraphique.) *Mostar, le* 30 *Avril,* 1876.

MOUKHTAR PACHA est entré hier victorieusement à Nikchik. La place est ravitaillée. J'informerai votre Excellence des détails, dès que j'en aurai reçu communication officielle.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Mostar, April* 30, 1876.

MOUKHTAR PASHA entered Nichsich yesterday victoriously. The place is revictualled. I will inform your Excellency of the details as soon as they are officially communicated to me.

No. 182.

Ali Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, April* 30.)

(Télégraphique.) *Mostar, le* 30 *Avril,* 1876.

SON Excellence Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, par son télégramme du 28 courant, expédié du champ de bataille, annonce l'entrée victorieuse de l'armée Impériale dans Nikchik, et le ravitaillement de cette place le lendemain de son départ de Gatzko. Le Maréchal nous apprend que, le jour même de son départ, il est arrivé à Zloslopp sans coup férir, et que le jour suivant il a eu à combattre la masse considérable des insurgés à Prechjeka, où, après avoir défait et dispersé leurs bandes, il s'est emparé des retranche-

ments qui servaient à les protéger. Son Excellence a pu passer la nuit du 28 dans la ville de Nikchik.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Mostar, April* 30, 1876.

HIS Excellency Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, by his telegram of the 28th instant, sent off from the field of battle, announces the victorious entry of the Imperial army into Nichsich, and the revictualling of the place the day after his departure from Gatzko. The Marshal informs us that the very day of his departure he reached Zloslopp without firing a shot; and that the day following he had to engage the principal mass of the insurgents at Prechjeka, where, after having defeated and dispersed their bands, he seized the entrenchments which protected them. His Excellency passed the night of the 28th in the town of Nichsich.

No. 183.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 1.)

My Lord, *Mostar, April* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of the 14th April, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, regarding certain propositions put forward by the insurgents as conditions of submission, an attack on Kolashin by Montenegrins, and other matters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, April* 14, 1876.

THE efforts of General Baron Rodich to induce the insurgent leaders to lay down their arms do not appear to have had much success. They propose as conditions that the Christians are not to be disarmed; that the promised reforms be guaranteed to them under a Consular Commission; that they be exactly informed as to the means at the disposal of the Government for supporting the refugees and rebuilding their houses; that the troops be withdrawn into the fortified towns; and also, I have lately heard, that one-third of the lands of the Mussulman proprietors be granted to them.

On hearing these pretensions, Baron Rodich returned to Yara, and, probably, communicated them to the Austrian Government, and this is all that is as yet known here.

The Governor-General declares that the Turkish Government, after having accepted Count Andrassy's Note, considered that it had made every possible concession, and he does not expect that anything more will be accorded. He thinks that to allow the Christians to return armed would be to encourage strife between them and the Mussulman population, and does not seem to think it at all likely that this point will be conceded. I think that the occasion of a pacification would be an opportunity for disarming both parties, and that this would be the most desirable result; but I fear the Government is not bold enough or strong enough to do it; and there is no doubt that the Moslems would not agree to it unless they were absolutely forced to do so.

With regard to the two next points, his Excellency considers that the promises which the Great Powers of Europe have thought trustworthy should suffice for the insurgents.

The withdrawal of the troops into the fortified places would, his Excellency thinks, render it difficult, if not impossible, for the Government to properly protect the returning Christians from isolated acts of vengeance on the part of the Mussulmans, or to punish them should they unfortunately occur; and he is of opinion, moreover, that the Government could not accept the dictation of the rebels as to the disposal of its armed force.

The demand for a third of the property of the Mussulmans scarcely, I think, merits serious attention.

In these demands there is evidence of the profound distrust with which every promise of the Turkish Government is regarded, and I cannot say that they are without justification. The Christians are afraid to place themselves unarmed in the power of their old

masters, whom they know they have irreparably injured. They are informed of the state of Turkish finances and are naturally anxious to know how they are to be fed, and given the means of cultivation, when they are aware that there is not money enough to pay the troops, zaptiehs, and other employés. They dread also the presence among them of the hungry and undisciplined soldiers.

I believe that Baron Rodich is to have another meeting with the insurgents, after having received the instructions of his Government.

In the meantime it seems that the Prince of Montenegro has been unable, or as Ali Pasha thinks, unwilling, to recall Peko Pavlovich and the Montenegrins under his orders. Ali Pasha declares that His Highness has not fulfilled a single promise he has made; and yesterday news was received here from Novi Bazar, that on the 11th some Montenegrins had murdered a Turk of Kolashin, named Sinan, while cutting wood, and having decapitated him had exposed his head as a trophy. The Mussulmans of Kolashin, it seems, went to secure the murderers, when they were met by a 1,000 Montenegrins, who violated the frontier and attacked Kolashin, and were only held at bay by the guns of the fortress. It is not stated, however, whether the inhabitants of Kolashin first passed into Montenegro, which, if the case, would, perhaps, excuse the retaliation on the part of the mountaineers. This is a fresh complication.

The news from Bosnia is not reassuring. Fighting is still going on in the sandjaks of Bihach and Travnik, and Mr. Freeman reports that it is said a band of 400 strong had crossed the Save at Shamatz, and were raising the population. I do not imagine that the Turks will find it difficult to put down these movements provided they have sufficient troops; but in the meanwhile all these incidents add to the ruin of the country and the misery of the inhabitants, and the expense to the Government.

Baron Rodich has not been able to keep his promise of revictualling Nichsich. I am told, however, that it is not by his own fault. Free passage was obtained, but mules were scarce, and when the contractors to the Turkish Government endeavoured to hire them, they were asked three Napoleons a load, which they could not pay. Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha is, therefore, again making an effort to revictual the place; with what success will be seen later.

Such is the situation of affairs at the present moment, and I cannot say it looks very satisfactory.

No. 184.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

My Lord, *Scutari, April* 18, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, with particulars about occurrences in the Herzegovina, and expressing an opinion to his Excellency as to the result of the so-called neutrality of Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

Inclosure in No. 184.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, April* 18, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch to the Earl of Derby of the 15th instant, forwarded to your Excellency in my despatch of the same date, I have the honour to report that I am told the insurgents succeeded at the same time as they burnt Gratchenitza, to blow up a small fort, together with its garrison.

The Christian inhabitants of the district of Brani belong to the Vassoevitch clan, which has its stronghold in the north-eastern extremity of Montenegro. This clan, early last summer, aided its brethren on the Turkish side of the frontier to raise the standard of revolt; but the warfare carried on has been of a desultory character, entirely dependent on the activity of the insurgents, who, as long as they remain in the mountain fastnesses, appear to be safe from the attacks of regular troops. The Vassoevitchs, from the peculiar

position of their district, have not been able to join the movement in the other parts of Herzegovina; but they can at any moment create a diversion in its favour by threatening to invade the narrow strip of country which separates them from the Servian frontier, and which is the only line of land communication of the Turks in Bosnia and the Herzegovina with Albania and Roumelia.

I have been informed by the Governor-General of Scutari, that the attempt to revictual Nichsich from Risano in the Bocche di Cattaro has not proved more successful than that made from this place, notwithstanding the promises of Montenegro and the so-called armistice, and that Moukhtar Pasha telegraphed to him four days ago, that he had renewed his military operations, in order to effect the relief of the besieged town.

Within the last week a number of light pieces of cannon, existing in the military depôt here, have been forwarded to the Turkish forts on this side of Montenegro.

I trust I am not exceeding my duty in expressing to your Excellency my conviction that it is entirely beyond the power of Turkey to suppress the existing insurrection in the Herzegovina, as long as the fiction of the neutrality of Montenegro has to be maintained and respected. On the other hand, there is no doubt that Montenegro has placed herself in a most efficient state of defence, and that she not only possesses large stores of ammunition and arms, but is also well provided with money.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 185.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

(Extract.) *Bosna Seraï, April* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the insurrectionary movement in the north-west of this province seems to be steadily extending and gaining strength, and the greater part of the Sandjaks of Bihach, Banialuka, and Travnik may now be said to be in a state of revolt. The total number of insurgents in these districts is probably not less than 10,000 or 12,000, and of these 4,000 to 5,000 are armed with breech-loading rifles. The most important band occupies the country between Unnatz and Livno, and consists of about 3,000 men, all said to be well-armed and under the command of a former brigand named Golub Babich. There is also a considerable band in the neighbourhood of Krupa, about 2,000 strong, and more or less well armed; and the remainder are scattered over the hilly parts of the country in small detached bands. A few days ago also several hundred armed men crossed the Save, and entered Bosnia at Svinjar, and have gained the Motaïtza mountains unopposed.

Skirmishes are stated to have taken place in several directions, and, as usual, the official reports assert that the Turks have been invariably victorious, and have inflicted great losses on the insurgents, while their own have been insignificant. I hear, however, from a trustworthy source, that about twelve days ago a very sanguinary conflict occurred in the mountainous district of Hrisovatz, near Bihach, in which the Turks were defeated with a loss of 600 men, but that the victory was gained at a heavy cost to the insurgents, their losses probably exceeding 200.

In the three disturbed Sandjaks above mentioned large bodies of Bashi-bazouks have been enrolled, and I have been confidentially informed that the Mussulman population of all the frontier districts will shortly be armed with breech-loading rifles.

The Commissioner of Control for the execution of the reforms, of which Haidar Effendi is President, has finally been constituted, and will hold its first sitting to-morrow. It consists of four members, two Mussulmans and two Christians, all inhabitants of Serajevo, and the choice of persons has been tolerably judicious.

No. 186.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 26. 1876.

M. DE GIERS, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, called on me yesterday, and informed me that Prince Gortchakow had received intelligence of a satisfactory nature from Constantinople, that the Porte denied any intention of attacking Montenegro, and that the Sultan was more pacific.

His Excellency further informed me that satisfactory replies had been received from Austria, Germany, France and Italy to the communication which Prince Gortchakow had requested the Representatives of those Powers to address to their respective Governments.

As yet no reply had been received from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires in London, but he stated that the Emperor had been much gratified by the advice given to the Porte by Sir H. Elliot, which had been reported by General Ignatiew, and by the energetic language of the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople.

M. de Giers expressed a hope that the negotiations would be resumed under the Austrian direction, and that the fort of Nichsich would be provisioned.

If this latter could be effected an armistice could be agreed upon, and hopes might be entertained of a peaceful arrangement.

I have, &c
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 187.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 1.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 26, 1876.

I HAD a short interview with Prince Gortchakow this morning.

I informed his Highness that your Lordship had informed the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at London of the positive assurance received from Sir H. Elliot, that the Porte had no intention to attack Montenegro, which had been subsequently confirmed by Musurus Pasha, who had stated, on official authority, that nothing beyond the assembling of some troops at Scutari for defensive purposes had been discussed at the Council held at the Porte; your Lordship had consequently presumed under these circumstances that the joint action of the Representatives at Constantinople was no longer called for.

Prince Gortchakow, while entertaining no doubt of the pacific intentions of Her Majesty's Government, and gratified by the language and counsels of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, still considered that in the eye of Europe, as well as of the Turks, the non-active participation of England in the remonstrances made by the five Powers at Constantinople, against a reported intention of Turkey to invade Montenegro, might give rise to misinterpretation and misconstruction, and that a false impression might be deduced from the apparent silence of England, that she separated herself from the European concert.

His Highness begged me therefore to express to your Lordship by telegraph his hopes that in some form Her Majesty's Government will convey to the Porte their participation in the opinion of the Five Powers on the occasion in question, and their satisfaction on learning that the Porte had no intention of attacking Montenegro.

Prince Gortchakow observed that the Porte had not abandoned her intention of concentrating a force at Scutari, and he considered this measure as one of a dangerous nature; for, said his Highness, "c'est une étincelle près d'une poudrière."

In conversing on the present attitude of affairs in the Herzegovina, Prince Gortchakow was of opinion that the negotiations could not be carried on (as Count Andrassy apparently hopes) on the basis or within the scope of the proposals accepted by the Porte.

Prince Gortchakow remarked that the Porte could not carry out the engagements she had taken; it was impossible for her to do so.

"But," I observed to Prince Gortchakow, "the European Powers could not possibly say to the Porte, 'we have asked you to undertake an impossibility.'"

"That is true," replied the Prince, "but at the time those proposals were made, we conceived that the Porte had more resources, more vitality; that she was not so powerless as she has since proved herself to be."

He expressed a hope that an armistice might be arranged, and that time would then be gained for negotiation ; and he seemed to entertain an idea that the insurgents should be brought to treat directly with the Porte.

On my endeavouring to elicit from His Highness an opinion as to the future arrangements which might be come to, he said at once "that he could not look into the future ; all he could do was to guard against the dangers of the moment."

I could perceive that, although there is a cordial wish, and, moreover, a decided intention to act and co-operate with Austria in these eastern complications, there is no harmony of views in regard to the mode or basis on which such an arrangement can be come to.

Count Andrassy appears to hold to an arrangement within the limit of his note accepted by the Porte.

Prince Gortchakow seems to think that this Andrassy note should be adapted and harmonized as far as may be possible with the demands of the insurgents ; and it is no doubt on this account that he considers it advisable that the insurgents should treat directly with the Porte, without the intervention of the Powers.

But, as I observed to the Prince, in the present excited state of the two conflicting parties, I did not see the possibility of any direct arrangement being come to between them.

No. 188.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 30 Avril,* 1876.

SUITE à mon télégramme d'aujourd'hui.

Voici traduction du télégramme que Mukhtar Pacha nous a fait parvenir par la station de Gatchko en date du 28 Avril:

"Parti de Gatchko hier, nous sommes arrivés sans incident au fortin de Zlastop que nous avons quitté à l'aube pour Priessica. Là nous avons rencontré les insurgés en nombre considérable ; après un combat très vif, les troupes Impériales les ont complètement dispersés et pris possession de toutes leurs positions. Ce même jour, Vendredi, le convoi de vivres et de munitions est entré à Nikchik, où je passerai moi-même la nuit."

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 30, 1876.

SEQUEL to my telegram of to-day.

Herewith is the translation of the telegram which Moukhtar Pasha has forwarded to us from the station of Gatschko, under date of April 28 :—

"We left Gatschko yesterday and arrived without incident at the port of Zlastop, which we left at daybreak for Pressica. There we came across considerable numbers of insurgents. After a very sharp engagement the Imperial troops entirely dispersed them, and seized all their positions. This very day (Friday), the convoy of provisions and ammunition entered Nichsich, and I shall pass the night there myself."

No. 189.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 2.)

My Lord, *Mostar, April* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch dated to-day, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, regarding the failure of the expedition to revictual Nichsich, the conduct of Montenegro and the Governor-General's opinion of the necessity of war with the Principality, and other matters of interest at the present moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, April* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Moukhtar Pasha has returned to Gatzko without having been able to succour Nichsich. He reported having had six encounters with the insurgents whom he reckons to have amounted to 7,000, aided by as many more regular Montenegrin troops. Ali Pasha has received telegrams also from Trebigné and Ragusa informing him that bodies of Montenegrins had marched to assist the insurgents, so that it would appear to be certain that some thousands of Montenegrins really did take part in the opposition offered to Moukhtar Pasha, though I imagine the number of 7,000 to be exaggerated. Ali Pasha thinks that Montenegro desires to acquire Nichsich and its rich plain; but he says that, if she gains her object, Turkey would not be able to retain or occupy the Duga Pass, and that the Herzegovina would, in future, be at the mercy of the Principality. He seems to think the pacification of the Herzegovina will not take place without war with Montenegro as in 1861.

Ali Pasha declares, with truth, that the chiefs of the insurgents are nearly all inhabitants of the quasi-independent districts of Piva, Baniani, Zapzi, and Montenegrins, who do not represent the sentiments of the real inhabitants of the Herzegovina, and of whose interest and desires they are entirely careless. These individuals who have nothing and who side entirely with Montenegro are those to whom Baron Rodich vainly counsels submission, but the masses of the poor, destitute, refugee inhabitants of Nevessine, Trebigné, Stolatz, Bilekia, Liubinie, and other places, have no voice and no opportunity to declare their wish to return to their homes.

Why, is it asked, did the practically independent people along the Montenegrin frontier join the rebellion? Why have they, in conjunction with Montenegro, done all the fighting? Why will they not lay down their arms? The universal reply is because they obey Montenegro. In fact, all seems to depend on Montenegro, and it becomes more and more evident, in spite of all declarations to the contrary, that the Prince sheltering himself behind protestations of neutrality, is, in reality, playing a most treacherous part and rendering pacification hopeless.

No. 190.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 1 *Mai*, 1876.

MOUKHTAR PACHA vient de rentrer à Gatzko, après avoir ravitaillé Nikchik et battu complètement sur toute la route les nombreux insurgés qu'il a rencontrés. Le Maréchal nous signale de brillantes victoires.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 1, 1876.

MOUKHTAR PASHA has just returned to Gatschko, after having revictualled Nichsich, and completely beaten on every point of his line of march the numerous insurgents whom he met. The Marshal reports to us glorious victories.

No. 191.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 2, 1876.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me on the 24th instant, and read me a telegram from Rome stating that the Italian Government had been informed that Prince Gortchakow had summoned a meeting of the Representatives of the Treaty Powers at St. Petersburgh, and urged them to impress upon their Governments the necessity of counselling the Porte to refrain from the very serious and grave measure of attacking Montenegro, which the Porte was believed to contemplate.

The Italian Government desired to know what instructions Her Majesty's Government had given in the matter.

I said that Her Majesty's Government had also received a report by telegraph of a meeting of the Representatives at St. Petersburgh, but that this had taken place some three days or so ago, and that since then it had appeared by subsequent telegrams that the Porte did not intend an attack on Montenegro.

In view of the conflicting reports, Her Majesty's Government had not taken any action in the matter, and I said I did not doubt that if anything were done the Italian Government would be informed of it.

M. Martino asked me when this reassuring news had been received.

I said that the reports on all sides in these affairs were contradictory, and that I was speaking according to the latest news we had, but that I could not undertake to say what further reports might be on their way, or give more than this general answer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 192.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 3, 1876.

THE French Ambassador has communicated to me a despatch dated the 28th ultimo, which he had received from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, inclosing a copy of the telegram from Safvet Pasha to the Representatives of the Porte at foreign Courts (of which I annex a copy*), invoking the assistance of the Powers to smooth away the difficulties which the attitude of Montenegro is considered to oppose to an effectual repression of the insurrection in Herzegovina and in Bosnia, and in which the Porte, whilst disclaiming any aggressive intentions against Montenegro, complains of the obstructions opposed by the inhabitants of the Mountain to the revictualling of Nichsich, notwithstanding the promises of Prince Nicolas.

The Duc Decazes stated that without entering into the question of the answer which should be returned to this communication, he had hastened to make it known to the Marquis d'Harcourt, since the same appeal had been addressed to all the Powers, as the French Government were desirous of learning their sentiments before themselves determining what course they should take in the matter. His Excellency had nevertheless no hesitation in stating that the idea had at once occurred to him that in the face of the serious embarrassments which the course pursued by Montenegro had caused to Turkey, it appeared more than ever evident that the Porte should aim at conciliating the goodwill of the population of the Mountain by according them concessions, or by holding out prospects which the Court of Cettigné was now manifestly aiming at by other means. By whatever measures Montenegro might be restrained, the result to Turkey of dissociating her from the insurrectionary cause would be a vital one.

The despatch concludes with the observation that it would be a matter of great difficulty in the present state of affairs to arrive at the amicable solution towards which the Porte invoked the assistance of France, but that any recourse to violent measures would so seriously complicate a state of affairs of which it was impossible to disguise the dangers, that the endeavours of the Powers should in every case be directed, whatever their ultimate decision on the special demands of the Porte might be, towards maintaining in all quarters a spirit of conciliation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 193.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 3.)

(Extract) *Paris, April* 29, 1876.

ON receipt yesterday evening of your Lordship's telegram of 3·15 P.M.,† I addressed a letter to the Duc Decazes, giving its substance, and stating in effect that the Turkish Ambassador in London had informed your Lordship that the Porte had learnt that the

* No. 176. † See No. 178.

Prince of Montenegro threatened hostilities; that it appealed to the Powers to make His Highness preserve a strict neutrality; and that Her Majesty's Government considered the Porte's request to be reasonable, and hoped that the other Governments would concur in this opinion.

This afternoon I received an answer from the Duc Decazes, the substance of which I at once telegraphed to your Lordship.

The Duke states that he had reason to hope that the fears of the Turkish Ambassador were unfounded, that the Prince of Montenegro was not concentrating his forces to prevent the revictualling of Nicksich, but was disposed to facilitate this operation on certain conditions, that the French Government have never ceased to enjoin on the Prince the strictest neutrality, and have given to their Agents permanent instructions to do so; and that the effort just made to avert the danger with which the Prince had been threatened will allow the French Government to press their advice more authoritatively upon His Highness.

The Duke adds his satisfaction at the two Governments being agreed upon a question of such general interest.

No. 194.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May* 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 2 *Mai,* 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de confirmer, de la façon la plus positive, la marche victorieuse de Moukhtar Pacha vers Nichsich. Cette expédition a pleinement réussi, et le but a été entièrement atteint. Notre Commandant-en-chef, après avoir repoussé et battu les insurgés qui avaient massé toutes leurs forces dans les défilés de Douga pour empêcher le ravitaillement de la dite place, et occupé une à une leurs positions, a fait entrer les convois de vivres et de munitions à Nichsich où il a passé lui-même la nuit. Au retour, les bandes des insurgés s'étaient réunies, et, ayant attaqué de nouveau les troupes Impériales, ont été, à deux nouvelles fois, battues et complètement dispersées, après avoir essuyé pertes considérables. Ayant ainsi rempli avec un succès complet leur mission, les troupes Impériales sont rentrées victorieuses dans leurs quartiers à Gatchko.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to confirm, in the most positive manner, the news of the victorious march of Moukhtar Pasha to Nichsich. This expedition has completely succeeded, and its object has been entirely attained.

Our Commander-in-chief, after having repulsed and defeated the insurgents who had massed all their forces in the Douga Defiles with a view to prevent the revictualling of the said place, and having seized their positions one after the other, conducted the convoys of provisions and ammunition into Nichsich, and passed the night there himself. On the return march, the insurgent bands had reassembled, and having renewed their attacks on the Imperial troops, they were on two separate occasions defeated and completely dispersed, after having suffered very considerable losses. Having thus most successfully accomplished their task, the Imperial troops returned victorious to their quarters at Gatschko.

No. 195.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 4, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and placed in my hands for perusal a despatch which he had received from his Government.

The purport of the despatch was to state that there is an entire agreement between the Governments of Austria, Germany, and Russia, as to affairs in the East; and that any reports that may have been circulated to the contrary are simple inventions.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 196.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 5, 1876.*

THE French Ambassador called here on the 29th ultimo, and asked what answer he was to give to an inquiry he had received from his Government as to the representation which had, he understood, been made to all the Powers by the Porte.

His Excellency added that the French Government were anxious to take the same course in the matter as Her Majesty's Government.

I informed his Excellency, in reply, that Musurus Pacha communicated on the 27th ultimo, the Circular from the Porte with regard to Montenegro, and on the 28th a telegraphic despatch was sent to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at the Powers instructing them to state that Her Majesty's Government considered that the representations of the Porte were just and reasonable, and that they trusted that the other Governments would concur with them in this opinion, and advise the Prince of Montenegro strongly accordingly. As the Porte has disclaimed attacking Montenegro, the latter should be called upon to observe an efficient neutrality.

I added that you had executed this instruction on the 29th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 197.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 6.)

My Lord, *Scutari, April 25, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and conveying to his Excellency the intelligence of military preparations being made by the Governor-General of this province for the massing of a large force on the southern frontier of Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 197.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Scutari, April 25, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Achmed Hamdy Pasha, the Governor-General and Commander-in-chief of this vilayet, told me two days ago that he had received orders from Constantinople to proceed at once to Podgoritza and Spuz, and the other Turkish garrisons in this district on the Montenegrin frontier, and there prepare supplies and quarters for 30,000 men that are to be forwarded without delay from Smyrna, Syria, Candia, and Southern Albania. Achmed Hamdy Pasha consequently left this yesterday morning for Podgoritza, accompanied by a number of the principal functionaries of this vilayet.

No. 198.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, April 20, 1876.*

UPON going to the Porte this afternoon, I learnt that the Sultan was greatly incensed by the report received from Moukhtar Pasha of the part taken by Montenegro in opposing the expedition sent to the relief of Nichsich.

His Majesty had at once ordered troops to be despatched to Scutari with a view to the adoption of immediate operations against the Principality; even whilst I was with the Grand Vizier an Aide-de-camp arrived from the Palace with a message reiterating His Majesty's previous orders, and a military council was about to be held to deliberate upon the position of things.

Mahmoud Pasha having asked my opinion upon the course that should be followed, I said that he must bear in mind that war with Montenegro meant war with Servia as well.

I likewise reminded him that some months ago Russia had declared that she would not permit an attack upon Montenegro.

My strong and decided opinion, therefore, was that, whatever provocation that Principality had given, he would be inexcusable if he advised the Sultan to desire an attack to be made upon it, unless the Minister of War could guarantee to His Majesty that the men and money at his disposal, and the general organisation of the army, were such as to enable him successfully to face such extended calls upon them.

His Highness said that my views entirely coincided with his own, and he would express them at the Council to which he was just going.

No. 199.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 21, 1876.*

AMONG all classes of the public, as well as among many of the members of the Government, the feeling for war with Montenegro has become so strong that it looks at this moment as if there is little prospect of its being avoided.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 200.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, April 21, 1876.*

AFTER making every allowance for the exaggerations contained in the Turkish official reports, the active participation of Montenegro in the last attack upon the troops proceeding to the relief of Nichsich cannot well be doubted; and, if such proceedings continue, it will not long be possible to restrain the Porte from adopting measures against the Principality which may lead to a general conflagration.

Each fresh instance that occurs adds to the strength of those who are for energetic action, and Raschid Pasha is looked upon as having been so much duped that he now is scarcely listened to if he ventures to recommend a persistence in a prudent policy.

No. 200*.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 21, 1876.*

THIS morning the Minister of War sent his Secretary to me, to say that his incessant occupations, since his nomination three days ago, had made it impossible for him to call; but he was anxious to have my opinion upon the present emergency.

I repeated the language I had held yesterday to the Grand Vizier upon the imprudence of any precipitate action against Montenegro.

In the afternoon the Secretary came again, and said that he had conveyed my opinion to the Minister (who was yesterday understood to be in favour of immediate hostilities), and he was now inclined to avoid any attack upon Montenegro, and had spoken in this sense to the Sultan.

I have arranged to see his Excellency to-morrow morning, and shall endeavour to confirm him in the more prudent disposition which he now appears to be showing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 201.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 22, 1876.

WHEN I called upon the Minister of War this morning he gave me the most positive assurance that there is no intention of attacking or declaring war against Montenegro.

Considerations of prudence have now produced their effect upon those who advocate immediate war, among whom the Seraskier was understood to be one of the foremost.

He informed me that another attempt would be made to relieve Nichsich, and ten battalions were on their way to reinforce Moukhtar Pasha, who would then have twenty-five battalions available for the purpose, two more having been left at the blockhouse where the supplies were deposited at his last expedition.

The Minister says that the strength of the battalions may be computed at from 600 to 800 men, which is greatly in excess of what other accounts would lead me to believe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 202.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, April* 23, 1876.

LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS reported to your Lordship by his telegram of the 20th* that Prince Gortchakow considers the negotiations with the insurgents at an end, and that, as Turkey had appealed to arms, Europe must now await the issue of the conflict.

The expression conveys a very inaccurate statement of the case.

A suspension of hostilities had been agreed upon, on the understanding that an important fortress should be revictualled, and, had this agreement been carried out, there is no reason for supposing that the Porte would have objected to its being prolonged; but, as this was not done, it became necessary for the Turks to endeavour themselves to throw in the supplies.

When the truce expired, they undertook no offensive operations, but the insurgents, who had been profiting by it to organize their preparation for resistance, opposed the passage of the convoys.

No. 203.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 23, 1876.

I AM informed by General Ignatiew that he had called the attention of Prince Nicholas to the statement of Moukhtar Pasha of the part taken by the Montenegrins in the late fights between Gatzko and Nichsich.

He had received in answer the most categorical denial of the truth of the accusation from the Prince, who invited an European investigation of the charge made against him.

The Minister of War, on the other hand, while he admits that there may be much exaggeration in the estimate of the numbers of Servians and Montenegrins engaged, declares that there can be no doubt of their having taken a leading part in the combats, the insurgents being, he asserts, commanded by the father-in-law of the Prince of Montenegro himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* See No. 162.

No. 204.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 24, 1876.*

RASCHID PASHA tells me that he has informed the Austrian and Russian Governments that if the Prince of Montenegro will allow the revictualling of Nichsich, Moukhtar Pasha will abstain from making another expedition for the relief of the fortress.

If this proposal is not acceded to, it will be taken as a proof that the Prince was not sincere in regard to the last agreement, and the Porte will have to consider what measures it may be necessary to adopt.

It is hoped that a favourable answer may be received before Wednesday, and no operations will be undertaken by Moukhtar Pasha before this period has elapsed, but the necessities of Nichsich are too imperative to allow of further delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 205.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 25, 1876.*

THE last accounts from the north of Bosnia are entirely satisfactory.

Raschid Pasha says that the Austrian frontier being now efficiently guarded, the bands of insurgents had been easily dispersed, and tranquillity is restored in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 206.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 25, 1876.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW having called upon me the day after I had spoken to the Grand Vizier deprecating an attack upon Montenegro, I told him exactly the language I had been holding, in which he entirely concurred.

The following morning he saw Raschid Pasha and the Grand Vizier, and spoke in the same sense, adding that he did so for himself and for his colleagues, and the former asked Mr. Sandison if he knew whether the General had been deputed to speak for me, and whether he was to regard this as a collective communication.

Mr. Sandison answered very properly that, although General Ignatiew seemed to have expressed exactly the same opinion as I had done two days before, he was convinced that I had not joined in anything like a collective communication.

This occurred before anything was known of a proposal at St. Petersburgh for a collective action of the Representatives here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 207.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 7.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1876.*

RASCHID PASHA had an audience of the Sultan three days ago, at which he seems to have laid fairly before His Majesty the many objections to the adoption of hostilities against Montenegro.

The Sultan, who had been strongly inclined to vigorous measures, listened to him with patience, and seemed to recognize the force of his arguments.

His Majesty's whole anxiety seemed to be centered in the fate of Nichsich, and he insisted that no efforts should be spared to insure its being relieved.

He would be quite satisfied if this could be done by sending provisions through Montenegro, but otherwise it must be accomplished by Moukhtar Pasha.

No. 208.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May 7.*)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 26, 1876.*

ALTHOUGH it has been intimated to the Porte through the Austrian Embassy that the Prince of Montenegro would permit the passage of provisions for Nichsich through the Principality from Scutari, the operation could not be attempted until some arrangement is made to insure the safety of the convoy over the short distance that separates the fortress from the Montenegrin frontier.

During the earlier period of the insurrection a convoy of provisions had been sent that way with the permission of the Prince, but upon arriving at the frontier, and within sight of the fortress, it was found that it would not be allowed to reach it, and the supplies had to be sent back to Scutari.

A repetition of a similar failure would now seal the fate of the place, and although Prince Nicholas may engage that the convoy shall not be attacked within his own territory, and may thus keep up the semblance of neutrality, no confidence can be felt that he would attempt to restrain his own subjects or exert his influence over the insurgents to prevent it from being seized as soon as it passed the frontier.

He might then plead that he had fulfilled his engagement, and that he could not be held responsible for anything that occurred beyond his own limits.

Moukhtar Pasha reports that a very large insurgent force is collected in the immediate neighbourhood of Nichsich, and the Porte hesitates to allow the fate of the place to depend upon their forbearance if they have the opportunity of cutting off the unprotected supplies sent from Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 209.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May 7.*)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 27, 1876.*

ALTHOUGH no immediate intention is now entertained of attacking Montenegro, preparations for military operations on an extended scale continue to be pushed forward.

I learn from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, that orders have been received there to enrol twenty-eight battalions of redifs of the 3rd corps d'armée, and orders were this morning sent from the Palace to the Admiralty to provide transports for thirteen battalions from Trebizonde, and for seventeen from Beyrout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 210.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May 7.*)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 28, 1876.*

THE statement which has reached the Russian Government, alluded to in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, that all the Representatives here except myself had made a representation to the Porte on the subject of the contemplated attack upon Montenegro is so much at variance with the facts, that I am at a loss to account for it.

I was, as it happened, the first to do so, it having been on the 20th that I strongly urged upon the Grand Vizier the objections to the proposed course.

On the 21st it was decided that the attack should not be made, and on the following

day, as I have reported to your Lordship in another despatch, General Ignatiew went to the Grand Vizier, and Raschid Pasha, and speaking in his own name and in that of all his colleagues, expressed himself precisely as I had done two days before.

In mentioning this to me, the General said that he had considered himself warranted in speaking in the name of his colleagues, for although I had not authorized him to do so for me, he knew that I had already expressed the same opinion.

None of us had at that time received instructions consequent upon Prince Gortchakow's invitation; and when these instructions arrived, they had, in fact, not only been executed, but had become unnecessary, as the apprehended eventuality was avoided.

Some of my colleagues, although not all of them, communicated those instructions to the Porte, but I took no further step in the matter after I was satisfied that the necessity for it was past.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 211.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

My Lord, *Vienna, April 28, 1876.*

BEFORE I received your Lordship's telegram of this date,* in which it is stated that Her Majesty's Government consider that the representation of the Porte is just and reasonable, that as it had disclaimed any intention of attacking Montenegro, the Great Powers should strongly advise Prince Nicholas to observe a strict neutrality, Count Andrassy had informed me that His Highness had given him positive assurances (in which his Excellency placed entire confidence) that he would act in conformity with the wishes of the Powers, and remain strictly neutral in the contest which is taking place on the frontiers of the Principality.

As I nevertheless thought it expedient that his Excellency should be made acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, I transmitted to him the substance of your Lordship's telegram, in a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith, for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 211.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

Dear Count Andrassy, *Vienna, April 28, 1876.*

ALTHOUGH you believe the information received at Constantinople as to the intentions of the Prince of Montenegro to assist the insurgents in resisting Moukhtar Pasha's march to Nichsich through the Duga Pass to be unfounded, I nevertheless transmit to you herewith the copy of a telegram on the subject of the appeal made by the Porte to the Six Powers to use their influence with Prince Nicholas to induce him to observe a strict neutrality, as the opinion which Lord Derby expresses upon it was evidently sent to me for communication to your Excellency.

Believe, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 212.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, May 2, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 26th ultimo, I have had some conversation with Count Andrassy, relative to your opinions as to the expediency of granting territorial concessions to Montenegro, and from his Excellency's language on the subject, there appears to be little probability of his ever being disposed to recommend such

* See No. 178.

a measure to the Porte. He says that the negotiation now pending for accomplishing the pacification of the Herzegovina was based on the clear understanding that no territorial changes were to take place, and that the territorial *status quo* was to be maintained with such ameliorations as it might be possible to effect in the administration of the Turkish provinces, and in the social position, and the material interests of their Christian inhabitants.

As yet his Excellency said this programme had been maintained, but if it is to be departed from, the deviation cannot be made in favour of only one State. If Montenegro is to be satisfied, Servia must be so likewise, and Austria-Hungary will have to support the claims of her own Croats in Turkish Croatia; and, in other words, the scramble for Turkish provinces will begin, and it will be impossible to prevent or postpone eventualities which are to be expected from a dissolution or dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire.

As I said that I believed Ali Pasha had recommended the Prince's wishes to the favourable consideration of the Porte, his Excellency rejoined that, if Ali Pasha had done so, it could only have been from a short-sighted and provincial view, as to what might be of immediate and local advantage, and without his having sufficient breadth of vision to discern the many great and serious consequences which would inevitably follow any exception to the principle of the maintenance of the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire, by which the relations of European Powers with the Porte are at present regulated.

No. 213.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 8.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 3, 1876.

COUNT ANDRASSY, whom I met this afternoon, confirmed a report which has been in circulation since yesterday, that he has been invited to meet Prince Gortchakow at Berlin, and he said he proposed to leave Vienna for that capital in time to be present at the arrival of the Emperor Alexander.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 214.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 8.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 4, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador having called upon me yesterday, we had some conversation on the subject of Moukhtar Pasha's recent successful operations, and on the influence which they may have on the negotiations for the pacification of the Herzegovina, I observed that I hoped the Porte would use the opportunity to show its readiness to fulfil its promises to the insurgents, and Aarifi Pasha having therefore asked my opinion as to who should take the initiative in new negotiations, I said it appeared to me that the natural course would be for his Excellency to be authorized to inform Count Andrassy that the Porte, notwithstanding its recent successes, is willing to grant a suspension of hostilities with a view to the submission of the insurgents still in arms, and to communicate with the Austrian authorities as to the measures which may be expedient for effecting the immediate return of the refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 215.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 8.)

(Extract.) *Ragusa, April* 30, 1876.

ON the 25th instant I started for Mostar with Major Gonne, being desirous of profiting by that gentleman's companionship to accept a pressing invitation given me by Ali Pasha during his stay at Ragusa.

Very few troops were to be seen either at Klek or at Mostar, Moukhtar Pasha having summoned every available man to join him in the second expedition for the relief of Nichsich. Wassa Effendi complained to me that this concentration of all the troops in the south of the province was a serious hindrance to him in arranging for the return of the refugees, whom he could not undertake to protect unless a small military force is placed at his disposal. He assured me that the Austrian authorities at Metcovich reported that there were many families anxious to return. Both he and Ali Pasha thought that at least two-thirds of the province were in their normal state of cultivation, and they continue to be of opinion that it is only terror of the vengeance which would be wreaked upon them by the insurgents that prevents a general repatriation of the emigrants.

Wassa Effendi said to me that he believed that he had done some good at Mostar, principally in causing justice to be more equitably administered, and in reforming the gaol system. He makes a weekly inspection of the prisons in person.

Ali Pasha listened with profound interest to all that Major Gonne thought himself at liberty to tell him respecting the state of affairs at Cettigné. His Excellency is clearly of opinion that the only way to deal successfully with the insurrection is to adopt a more decided policy against Montenegro.

No. 216.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 8.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, May 2, 1876.*

IT may not be without interest at the present moment to notice a communication to the "Pester Lloyd," mentioning the recent journey of the Serdar Montanovich from Montenegro to Russia.

It states that the Serdar has just returned, after visiting the Prince's children in Moscow, and after giving a verbal report in the proper quarter in St. Petersburgh, of the situation in Montenegro. This report turned upon a complaint against Turkish military measures in Albania, and upon the assurance that for two months the frontier had been so strictly kept, that no Montenegrin had crossed to the insurgents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 217.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

My Lord, *Berlin, May 5, 1876.*

THE Czar and the Emperors of Austria and Germany having agreed to a meeting of their Ministers to discuss the best means of bringing about a pacification of the insurrectionary movement in Herzegovina, Prince Bismarck, by order of his Sovereign, has invited Count Andrassy to Berlin, as the Russian Chancellor had already done last week; and Count Andrassy, in accepting the double invitation, has announced his arrival at Berlin for Tuesday next the 9th instant.

The Czar and Prince Gortchakow, however, will not be here before Thursday morning, the 11th, and His Majesty's departure for Ems is fixed for Saturday next, 13th instant.

In reply to my inquiries Herr von Bülow told me that the Andrassy note was the basis on which it was hoped to effect the pacification. It remained to be seen, however, from the impending discussion in what manner Prince Gortchakow and Count Andrassy proposed to bring about a practical agreement between the insurgents and the Porte.

The German Government, having no special interest beyond the maintenance of peace in the matter, would be willing and glad to give their moral support to any pacific solution of the question their Russian and Austrian allies might agree upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 218.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, May* 8, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me on the 4th instant, and entered into a long and interesting conversation on the state of matters in the East.

The following are the most important of the observations which he was charged to make.

His Government, he said, thought badly of the turn which events were taking; it was evident that the Austrian note had hitherto produced no effect in bringing about a pacification, and it did not seem likely that it would do so. The question would, therefore, arise, What further steps ought to be taken? He assumed that it was not contemplated by any Power to allow the war to go on indefinitely, without an attempt to prevent its spreading. It seemed that two alternatives only were possible: the one, an occupation of the disturbed districts by Austrian troops; the other, a fresh proposal made to the insurgents of terms which they might be induced to accept. To the policy of an Austrian occupation many objections occurred. It was not desired by the Austrians themselves; it might lead to difficulties and complications not at present foreseen; and though it might restore peace temporarily and provisionally, it effected nothing towards a permanent settlement of the questions at issue. The other alternative seemed more feasible; the insurgents had been moderate in their demands, they had not asked for independence or for any concession incompatible with the maintenance in its integrity of the Turkish Empire; it remained to be seen whether something might not be done to meet their views.

Count Schouvaloff then referred to the intended meeting of Prince Gortchakow, Prince Bismarck, and Count Andrassy at Berlin, in the course of next week, and said that it was the earnest desire of his Government that whatever course of action was to be decided upon, should be the result of agreement, not among three Powers only, but among six.

I said that I had heard this last expression of opinion with much satisfaction, and entirely concurred in it. As to the course which should be pursued by the Powers, it seemed premature to attempt to lay it down. There appeared, I said, to be a general agreement that something ought to be done; but no agreement, or approach to agreement, as to what it should be. I was disposed to concur in his objections to the plan of an Austrian occupation—not the least of them being the reluctance of the Austrian Government itself to take that step. I thought it too soon to despair of the success of Count Andrassy's plan of pacification, and pointed out briefly the difficulty of asking the Porte to make further concessions, after the unreserved acceptance by the Sultan of those formerly proposed, and the rejection of them by the other party to the quarrel. I spoke of the active part taken by Montenegro in encouraging the insurrection; and expressed to Count Schouvaloff my opinion that since the Powers had combined to protect Montenegro from attack by Turkey, they were bound to see that the security thus guaranteed to the Prince and his people was not abused.

No. 219.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, April* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of my despatch addressed, on the 21st instant, to Sir Henry Elliot, on the Austrian promise to intern Cara-George, Junior.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, April* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a new cause of irritation has occurred between Austria and Servia on account of the son of Cara George, the Pretender.

This gentleman has been on several occasions fighting as an insurgent leader in Bosnia, with men recruited at his expense in Hungary, and at the end of each expedition he returned to Hungary unmolested. Latterly he has been sending emissaries to Servia, and has issued a proclamation.

Five weeks ago Prince Wrede was instructed by Count Andrassy to inform Prince Milan that the authorities in Hungary had been instructed to proceed to his apprehension, and that as an insurgent Chief, Cara George, Junior, would be treated exactly like Ljubibratitch.

The Servians assert that nothing of the sort has been done, and that though their own detectives are able to follow all his movements, the Hungarian authorities pretend to be ignorant of his whereabouts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 220.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, April* 28, 1876.

IN the political events which are either going on or preparing in this part of Europe, two distinct Slav bodies are likely to exercise no small influence, viz., the Omladinists in Hungary and the Slavonic Committee in Moscow.

The Omladinists are the Slav home rulers of Hungary; as such, they are hated and despised by the governing (Magyar) class in that kingdom; and hitherto they had shown so defective a political organization, that their importance arose much more from their supposed connection with certain parties at Court at Vienna, and on account of their actual relations with the Revolutionary party in the Principality of Servia, than on account of any immediate influence as agitators in Croatia, Dalmatia, or Slavonia. Actual events are foreshowing a change in this respect.

From 1849 to July 1875, these Slavs were chiefly aiming at the attainment of a recognition of certain Home Rule prerogatives, by means of their opposition to Magyar or Hungarian supremacy. With that view they took up arms under Jellachitch for the Emperor Francis Joseph in 1849, opposed the restitution of the ancient Hungarian Constitution till 1867, and have carried on a more or less factious constitutional opposition to the dominant party since that year.

But the sympathies which the Southern Slavs were able not only to set forth openly, but also to which they could give practical effect during six months, in favour of the insurgent Slavs in the Herzegovina, have modified their position, and the aspirations of that race have acquired fresh vigour from the Adriatic to the Drave, and from the Drave to the Theiss and the Save, by giving them a cohesion and a common bond of hope, by making them view the cause of the Turkish Rayahs as their own, and their emancipation from Ottoman rule as an object of primary importance for Austrian Slavs, by which they can attain an influence which they have not had for centuries, and which they have hitherto sought in vain on the hustings or in Parliamentary assemblies.

Their proximity to the scene of the insurrection has enabled the Croats and Dalmatians to give the Insurgents far more real assistance than they can have derived from Servia, and the public men of the latter Principality have seen themselves gradually ousted by these, and by the Prince of Montenegro, from the leadership of the national cause, which Servia considered hitherto as its peculiar mission and attribute.

The Sclavonic Committees in Russia, and especially the central one at Moscow, have contributed a good deal to propagate sympathy for the insurgent cause in the Russian Empire, and to collect funds for the support of that cause.

Amongst the agents employed by them, there is one whose name has been very much before the public of late, and who appears determined to play a part in the political

negotiations pending for the pacification of the Herzegovina, viz., M. Wesselitzky-Bogidarovitch.

As the public journals have referred at some length to this gentleman, I need not trouble your Lordship with any further particulars concerning his movements, except to mention that he has been employed by the Metropolitan of Belgrade to distribute funds in the Herzegovina.

No. 221.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 8.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, April* 28, 1876.

I FEAR that it is beyond my power to convey to your Lordship any accurate description of the state of affairs in Servia, in so far as to form any exact conclusions as to the real plan of Prince Milan and of his Ministers at the present crisis.

The Prince takes no pains to conceal that more than ever he considers a collision with the Porte as within the range of possibilities, but he continues to disclaim, at the same time, any intention to act as the aggressor. He pointed out to me the other day that that portion of Bosnia which is conterminous to Servia has been entirely free from armed bands since last November, when the Papas Zarko was repulsed into Servia, whilst the insurgents, who had within the last few weeks made their appearance on the River Unna between Bihatch, Novi, and Kostainitza, were all in proximity to the Austrian frontier, and he defied any one to show that Servia had been instrumental in fostering insurrection in that part of Bosnia, though he added that such an accusation had been made somewhere, evidently alluding to Austrian authorities.

Indeed, it is generally believed here that this last rising in that part of Bosnia, which I have described above, and which is generally known by the name of Turkish Croatia, owed its main support to Austrian Slavs.

Whilst the above are, no doubt, the views of the most influential persons in this Principality, corresponding military preparations are carried on unremittingly with immense care and attention, and although the purchases of stores of different kinds are contracted for on a scale corresponding to the smallness of the resources of this juvenile State, most of these indicate by their nature the contemplation of a regular warfare at no distant period, and payments for them have well nigh exhausted the small supplies of cash which either existed in the Treasury a few months back, or which have accrued to it since. It does not appear that any means have succeeded up to this moment in providing for a mode by which it would be possible to replenish the exchequer before it is thoroughly drained, a moment which cannot be far off.

The delivery of some of the stores will not be supplied by the contractors till May, and to the end of June, and the intended purchase of horses in Bessarabia having turned out a total failure, on account of their high price, these are brought daily across the Danube from the inundated districts of Hungary by dealers, and those that are approved of are bought by the War Department.

All these facts would lead one to suppose that a regular campaign was in contemplation, the militia has been divided in six divisions, and all the arrangements of this new organization are, I believe, sufficiently advanced to enable Servia to enter the field at a very short notice, and perhaps even before all the preparations are fully completed, should it be considered advantageous to do so.

In conversation with the foreign Representatives, persons in authority tell us that all these preparations have a purely defensive character, and that the advent of the war party in the Councils of the Sultan might at any moment expose Servia to an attack, and her Prince to the merited reproach of his people, were he to leave such a danger out of his calculations.

Thus much I may say, that I have not met a single politician of any note in Servia who did not contemplate sooner or later hostilities with the Porte, not with a view to independence, but for the purpose of the acquisition of Bosnia, and through the deeply-rooted desire of making the present Principality the nucleus of a larger Slavonic State under the suzerainty of the Porte, as long as European Turkey forms a compact State.

All are unanimous and agreed on this subject without any exception. A few entertain a faint hope that the same result might be attained by negotiations with the Porte if any of the Great Powers could be made favourable to such a project, but not even these exclude an appeal to arms altogether from their calculations, so that it may be asserted without hesitation that the only differences existing amongst Servian public men in this respect are as to time, and appreciations of the fittest opportunity.

With such dispositions, and with the permanent reorganization of the national Servian army, which I am told could muster about 90,000 men, besides a reserve almost as numerous, it must be admitted that, even should pacific councils prevail at the last moment at Belgrade during next summer, the growing weakness of the Ottoman Empire may afford a series of temptations to this population to disturb the peace of its neighbours.

For many years to come the fate of war or peace in this Principality will depend chiefly on the views of the politicians of Belgrade as regards the mass of the population. This consists in Servia of yeomen or peasant proprietors, and these, I am assured, even at this moment, look with considerable alarm on the prospect of a war, and desire, above all things, a pacific solution, so that it is probable that they would contemplate with equanimity, should their Prince adopt a determination to preserve peace, though their Deputies at the Skoupstchina would probably, in that case, demand a strict account of the moneys they might consider as wasted for milltary stores, and for preparations without any apparent countervailing advantage.

Even the enthusiasm of the population of Belgrade is of an extremely moderate kind actually, notwithstanding the assertions to the contrary of most of the Viennese and Pesth correspondents and of sensational telegrams.

The question of money is likely to become a very critical one for the Servian Government ere long, as it is very probable that all their pecuniary resources will soon become completely exhausted.

I hear that it is contemplated to issue Exchequer bonds bearing 8 per cent. and redeemable in five years, but it is not likely that foreign contractors for military stores will accept these readily in payment.

In case of an outbreak of hostilities the Government have the power of demanding the war tax in cash, and the contributions in kind voted at the secret sittings of the last Skoupstchina.

It looks like a paradox, but the exhaustion of the Exchequer constitutes in itself a danger not to be entirely overlooked in speaking of the condition of Servia, as her rulers may have no other alternative but war for levying new taxes, for which, in that case only, they could have a legal excuse.

The militia has not been called out, even for exercise, as was originally intended, but as all the officers have proceeded to their respective depôts, and the men are ordered to be prepared to join their batallions on the shortest notice, I cannot place much reliance on the pacific character of the postponement of this measure.

There is no doubt that depôts of arms and of ammunition have been established in various parts of the country, chiefly in proximity to the Turkish frontier, and that a small body of Bosnian refugees is being organized at Shabatz on the Save.

It would appear that the war party here have two concurrent plans; they think that either Turkey will take the initiative of attack, or they hope that the insurrection will assume such proportions in Bosnia as to give Servia some pretext for giving open assistance to the Christians of the Province against the probable outrages of their Mahometan fellow-countrymen, the latter being all armed.

In either case a march on Bosna-Seraï would probably be attempted by Servian troops, while the main body of the army would attempt to resist an Ottoman invasion from Nisch and Widdin.

Though, as I had the honour of stating above, it is believed that the mass of the Servian people is by no means disposed in favour of a war at the present moment, and would prefer by far a pacific solution; I am, however, assured at the same time that their patriotic feelings are being gradually strongly aroused, and the reappearance of their former oppressers on Servian soil would, it is probable, raise a spirit of desperate resistance.

Another alternative has been spoken of, and recommended by some organs in Austria, and that with a view to avoid, if possible, the great dangers which must accompany an Ottoman occupation, which would be sure to be resisted, and the perils to the tranquillity of Europe which might ensue from the appearance of Servia as a combatant, in rebellion against the Suzerain Power; this preventive measure would be no other than an Austrian military occupation of this Principality.

No. 222.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 9.)

My Lord, *Mostar, April 27, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to state that I have received a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, written by your Lordship's instructions, and inclosing a copy of a despatch from his Excellency Raschid Pasha to his Excellency Musurus Pasha regarding the Turkish Government's appreciation of the manner in which I have performed my duties here.

I have to thank your Lordship for the kindness which suggested that this letter should be communicated to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 223.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 9, 1876.*

I HAVE to express to your Excellency my approval of the language held by you to the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, as reported in your despatch of the 4th instant, on the subject of the results that should follow the recent fighting in the Douga Pass.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 224.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 9, 1876, 10 P.M.*

GREAT uneasiness prevails here amongst all classes, and there are grounds for apprehending serious consequences.

Nothing certain is known of the designs that may be entertained, but for some days the Mussulmans have been buying up arms. My colleagues believe that the presence of ships of war at Besika Bay might be a protection to the Christians here, and would give them confidence. I entirely agree with them, and as our squadron is now at Jaffa, I have telegraphed to Mr. Eldridge as follows:—

"Inform Admiral Drummond that his early presence here might be very useful, and that I would be glad if he would bring the squadron to Besika Bay."*

No. 225.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 10, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a telegram from the Porte, which was communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador on the 27th ultimo, remonstrating against the hostile attitude shown by Montenegro towards Turkey.

Upon the receipt of this communication I despatched my telegram to your Excellency of the 28th, and I informed Musurus Pasha in reply that a telegram had been sent to you and to the British Representatives at the Courts of the other Powers, acquainting you with the contents of the Turkish telegram, and stating that Her Majesty's Government considered that the demands of the Porte were just and reasonable, and they trusted that the other Governments would concur with Her Majesty's Government in this opinion, and would strongly advise the Prince of Montenegro accordingly.

I added that Her Majesty's Government considered that, as the Porte had disclaimed

* See "Correspondence respecting the Murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica." Turkey No. 4 (1876).

any intention of attacking Montenegro, the latter should be called upon to observe an efficient neutrality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 226.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 10, 1876, 9·50 P.M.*

EVERY day the state of things here becomes more critical. My own impression is that the designs of the Mussulmans are directed more against the Government than against the Christians, but still, in case of a disturbance, the latter might be placed in great danger by the spirit of fanaticism which prevails. It is doubtful whether the army could be depended upon to act against the Mussulmans. The presence of a second British vessel here is desirable, and I should add that all my colleagues have requested their respective Governments to send an armed gunboat in addition to the ordinary "stationnaires."*

No. 227.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 10, 1876, 10 P.M.*

REPORTS received from Salonica are far from satisfactory. It would appear that the Turkish force there is insufficient either to insure tranquillity at the public funeral of the Consuls or to permit of arrests being made. Both our Consul, Mr. Blunt, and the Commander of the "Bittern," consider that the presence of two ironclads is much required, and they have telegraphed to the Admiral to that effect.*

No. 228.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.†

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 10, 1876.*

I HAVE to request that you will explain to Her Majesty's Government more fully your reasons for requiring the presence of the squadron at Besika Bay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 229.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.†

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 10, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to explain, in reply to your Lordship's telegraphic despatch which I received to-day, that I believe that the presence of the squadron at Besika Bay would greatly conduce to the security of the Christians here, who are considered to be in much danger at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

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* See "Correspondence respecting the Murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica." Turkey No. 4 (1876).

† Substance of this despatch was telegraphed.

No. 230.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 10, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Ambassador has reported by telegraph that there are grounds for apprehending serious occurrences at Constantinople, and that great uneasiness prevails there among all classes.

For several days past the Mussulmans have been buying arms; but nothing certain is known of the designs that may be entertained.

Sir H. Elliot and the Ambassadors of the other Powers at Constantinople are of opinion that the presence of ships of war at Besika Bay might be a protection to the Christians there, and would give them confidence.

His Excellency accordingly telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout to inform the British Admiral that he would be glad if he could bring the squadron under his command to Besika Bay, and that his early presence there would be very useful.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 231.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 10, 1876.

WITH reference to my other letter of this day's date respecting the desire expressed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that the Mediterranean fleet should proceed to Besika Bay, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will suggest to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that it might be as well that the Admiral on the station should be instructed to proceed to Smyrna in the first instance, to be ready to proceed to Besika Bay if required.

I am to add that Lord Derby would be glad to be informed should their Lordships agree in sending this instruction, in order that Her Majesty's Ambassador may be made acquainted with it by telegraph without delay.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 232.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 10, 1876.

WITH reference to my letter of this day's date, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform the Lords of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to explain more fully his reasons for requiring the British squadron to proceed to Besika Bay.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 233.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the advice given by your Excellency to the Grand Vizier against making an attack upon Montenegro, as reported in your despatch of the 20th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* See also "Turkey No. 4 (1876)."

No. 234.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the advice given by your Excellency to the Turkish Minister of War, urging the imprudence of any precipitate action against Montenegro, as reported in your despatch of the 21st ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 235.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1876.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 28th ultimo, commenting on the inaccurate statement of the Russian Government that your Excellency had not joined your colleagues in protesting against the contemplated attack upon Montenegro, and recapitulating your Excellency's proceedings on that occasion, I have to express the approval by Her Majesty's Government of the action taken by your Excellency in that matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 236.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 11, 1876, 3·30 P.M.

THE following official appointments are announced:—Mehemet Rusdi Pasha has been appointed Grand Vizier, and Hussein Avni Pasha becomes Minister of War.

The new appointments are likely to have a good effect in calming the excitement which exists here.

No. 237.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 11, 1876, 7·10 P.M.

I RECEIVED to-day a numerous deputation of the principal English, who waited upon me in order to represent the danger to which they are exposed.

The presence of ships of war at Constantinople is the only measure of safety they could suggest, and they considered that the imminence of the danger would justify an exceptional departure from the Treaty.

I told them that all I could do was to communicate their request to Her Majesty's Government, but I gave them no reason to expect that it would be complied with, seeing that the consent of all parties to the Treaty would be necessary.

I added that I should be glad if Her Majesty's Government thought fit to direct the fleet to proceed to Besika Bay, as in the event of any very extreme emergency, it would be within comparatively easy call.

I am quite without means of protecting the numerous English living here, but the knowledge that our vessels were at Besika would, I think, have a good effect upon the turbulent Turks.

A second gunboat, in addition to the "Antelope," ought certainly to be sent here.

No. 238.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1876, 6·20 P.M.

ORDERS have been sent by the Admiralty desiring the fleet to proceed to Smyrna to coal, and to await instructions there.

The "Swiftsure" has been ordered to proceed to Salonica from Malta.

No. 239.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1876, 1 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram respecting sending second gun-boat to Constantinople, what is it proposed to do with regard to Treaty of 1841, prohibiting entrance of ships of war into Dardanelles and Bosphorus?*

No. 240.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 12, 1876.

IT is unanimously considered by my colleagues that the Embassies are entitled to have two stationaries, and that there is nothing in the Treaties to prevent one of them from being a gun-boat.

Most of them have had gun-boats here, and a vessel such as Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," which was here during the winter, would be regarded as perfectly admissible, but it ought not to be a larger ship.

The Russian Government have sent, and other Governments will I believe send, a gun-boat.*

No. 241.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a telegram dated this day has been received from the Acting British Consul at Smyrna, reporting that the quantity of coals required for Her Majesty's fleet has been secured.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 242.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 13.)

My Lord, *Scutari, May* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a despatch and its inclosures this day sent by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and conveying to His Excellency the notice of the prohibition imposed in this vilayet on the exportation of provisions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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* See also "Turkey No. 4 (1876)."

Inclosure 1 in No. 242.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, May* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a circular received yesterday by me from the Governor-General of Scutari, and in which he informs me that, in compliance with superior orders, he has prohibited the exportation of provisions from this vilayet until the coming harvest.

I understand that the Consuls of Italy and Austria, the commercial interests of whose countries are considerable in North Albania, intend making representations against the imposition of the prohibition, as they believe it has not been applied in conformity with the stipulations of existing Treaties.

The Governor-General has informed me in conversation that the measure has been adopted purely out of military considerations with regard to the hostile attitude assumed by Montenegro, and that he is prepared to facilitate the exportation of the prohibited articles if they are not to be introduced into the Principalities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 242.

Hamdi Pasha to Consul Kirby Green.

M. le Consul, *Scutari, le* 1 *Mai,* 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que d'après un ordre de la Sublime Porte, l'exportation des vivres du vilayet est défendue jusqu'au temps de la moisson.

Néanmoins, si réellement il y aurait nécessité absolue de transports dans un endroit des vivres, leur exportation ne pourra être faite qu'à la suite du consentement et de la permission de l'autorité locale.

Agréez, &c.

(Seal of Achmed Hamdi Pasha.)

(Translation.)

M. le Consul, *Scutari, May* 1, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in compliance with an order from the Sublime Porte, the exportation of provisions from the vilayet is prohibited until the time of the harvest.

Nevertheless, should an absolute necessity arise for the conveyance of provisions to any place, their exportation shall only be sanctioned with the consent and permission of the local authorities.

No. 243.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 13.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May* 12, 1876.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that the following telegram has this day been received from the Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, dated from Jaffa, viz.:—

"Serious disturbances Salonica. 'Bittern' is there. Ambassador informs me early presence of fleet at Besika Bay would be very useful. Propose proceeding there immediately after visiting Beyrout, where telegram would find me. Leave to-morrow. I have ordered 'Swiftsure,' 'Devastation,' to Piræus immediately. 'Research,' 'Rapid,' will remain on this coast, and a ship will be sent to Smyrna according to Ambassador's wishes. I learn that French squadron has been ordered Salonica. French and Prussian Consuls have been murdered. Latter a British subject."

(Signed) "DRUMMOND."

2. The following reply has been sent to the Vice-Admiral at Beyrout, viz. :—

"Your telegram received. Proceed Smyrna, where Consul has been instructed to secure 800 tons of coal for squadron. (Admiral) Rice has ordered 'Swiftsure,' Salonica, 'Devastation,' Malta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 244.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 13.)*

Sir, *Admiralty, May 13, 1876.*

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Earl of Derby that the following telegram has been received this day from the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, and dated from Acra, viz. :—

"Have received telegram. Go immediately in execution of your orders."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 245.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 13, 1876, 6 P.M.*

ANOTHER gunboat will be sent to Constantinople. It will probably be the "Bittern," when that vessel is relieved at Salonica by the "Swiftsure." "Bittern" is within the size required by the Porte's Memorandum of April 7, 1859. The Admiral has been directed, after coaling, if necessary, at Smyrna, to proceed with as little delay as possible to Besika Bay.

No. 246.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, May 13, 1876.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will suggest, for the consideration of the Board of Admiralty, that it might be as well to remind Admiral Sir J. Drummond of the provisions of the Treaties of 1841, 1856, and 1871, and of the correspondence which took place in 1849 and 1853, with reference to any communications which may pass between him and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople should Her Majesty's Fleet proceed to Besika Bay.

No. 247.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 13, 1876.*

WITH reference to my other letter of this day's date respecting the provisions of the Treaties of 1841, 1856, and 1871, with regard to the entrance of ships of war through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a copy of a Memorandum of the Porte, furnished to Sir H. Bulwer, defining the force and dimensions of the light ships which are allowed to enter the Dardanelles for the service of the Embassies. It will be seen from this Memorandum that the vessels should not exceed a maximum of 50 metres in length and 800 tons.

It does not appear that any limitation has been placed on the number of small vessels to be so employed; and Sir H. Elliot has reported by telegraph that the Foreign Representatives do not consider that an addition to the vessels attached to

* See also "Turkey No. 4 (1876)."

their respective Embassies would be contrary to Treaty. It is, moreover, reported that an additional gunboat is going to be sent to each of the Russian, Austrian, and Italian Embassies by their respective Governments.

Under these circumstances, Lord Derby is of opinion that a gunboat of the size required by the regulation should be dispatched to attend Her Majesty's Embassy, in addition to the "Antelope," now at Constantinople.

I am to add that Her Majesty's Government have decided that the Admiral should also be instructed to proceed to Besika Bay as soon as possible after coaling, if necessary, at Smyrna.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

Inclosure in No. 247.

Regulations respecting the Dimensions of Foreign Vessels of War to be admitted within the Straits of the Dardanelles.

(No. 1.)

Memorandum of the Porte to Sir H. Bulwer.

(Translation.)

THE force and dimensions of the light ships which are allowed to enter the Straits of the Dardanelles by permission, in order to be placed at the disposal of the Embassies, and employed in certain defined duties in virtue of an ancient rule of the Sultan's Government, confirmed by the Treaty of Paris of 30th March, 1856, not having been yet determined, mistakes occasionally occur.

In order to the complete observance of this rule, as well as to prevent in future the occurrence of mistakes, it appears suitable to adopt for the ships in question the calibre and dimensions of those which it has been agreed to employ in the Black Sea on the part of the Sultan's and the Russian Government, and not to exceed them. The maximum of these is 50 mètres in length above the water-mark, and 800 tons in bulk.

The Imperial Government having determined that the above shall be the dimensions of ships that shall, in future, come within the Straits of the Dardanelles, I hasten to apprize your Excellency of it.

I avail, &c.
(No signature nor seal.)

April 7, 1859.

(No. 2.)

Sir H. Bulwer to the Porte.

Constantinople, May 17, 1859.

The Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, having transmitted to his Government the Circular Memorandum of the Sublime Porte, dated the 7th ultimo, respecting the dimensions of the vessels of war which are henceforward to be admitted within the Straits of the Dardanelles, in order to be at the disposal of foreign Embassies at Constantinople, has the honour to state, in reply to the Porte's communication, that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to offer to the limitations laid down in the Porte's new regulations regarding those vessels.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) H. L. BULWER.

(No. 3.)

Sir H. Bulwer to the Porte.

Constantinople, May 17, 1859.

At the request of the Porte, the Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, having applied by telegram for the opinion of

Her Majesty's Government, whether an exception to the general rule could not be made in favour of Royal visitors coming to Constantinople in men-of-war exceeding the stipulated dimensions of those which are permitted to pass the Straits of the Dardanelles, has the honour to inform his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, that Her Majesty's Government do not object to an exception in regard to the frigate which is to convey His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine to the Turkish capital, but wishes it to be understood that it merely does so as an exception to the general rule which, unless its breach is consented to by the parties interested, is to be strictly observed.

The Undersigned, &c.

(Signed) H. L. BULWER.

No. 248.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *Berlin, May 13, 1876.*

I RECEIVED a letter from Prince Bismarck, of which the inclosed is a copy, asking me to call on him to-day, together with the Ambassadors of France and Italy, to meet the Chancellors of Austria and Russia.

I did so, and found that M. de Bülow and Baron Jomini were equally present.

After a few preliminary words from Prince Bismarck, Prince Gortchakow and Count Andrassy, confirming the cordial understanding which exists between them, and expressing their sincere hope and anxious desire that the Governments of England, France, and Italy, who have given their moral support to the attempted pacification of the Herzegovinians, will equally agree to support the further attempts they have now met to concert, in consequence of the alarming state of affairs in Turkey.

Baron Jomini was then invited to read the inclosed document to us, which embodies the views the Chancellors wished to communicate to us, and the proposal to which they solicit the co-operation of the other Great Powers.

On receiving a copy of this document for transmission to your Lordship, I said that in the absence of special instructions I did so *ad referendum*.

Prince Gortchakow observed that he and Count Andrassy would remain till Monday at Berlin, and that they hoped the Governments of England, France, and Italy would be able to express an opinion on the telegraphic summary of their proposal before they left.

The departure of the messenger to London compels me to close this report without further delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 248.

Prince Bismarck to Lord Odo Russell.

Mon cher Ambassadeur, *Berlin, le 12 Mai, 1876.*

JE vous serai très obligé de vouloir bien passer chez moi demain, Samedi, 13 Mai, à 1 heure. J'adresse la même invitation à MM. les Ambassadeurs de France et d'Italie. Vous trouverez chez moi mes deux collègues d'Autriche et de Russie.

(Signé) v. BISMARCK

(Translation.)

My dear Ambassador, *Berlin, May 12, 1876.*

I SHOULD be much obliged if you would kindly call upon me to-morrow, Saturday the 13th, at 1 o'clock. I am sending a similar invitation to the French and Italian Ambassadors. You will find my Austrian and Russian colleagues with me.

(Signed) v. BISMARCK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 248.

LES nouvelles alarmantes venant de la Turquie sont de nature à engager les Cabinets à resserrer leur entente.

Les trois Cours Impériales se sont cru appelées à se concerter entre elles pour parer aux dangers de la situation, avec le concours des autres grandes Puissances Chrétiennes.

Dans leur pensée, l'état présent des choses en Turquie réclame une double série de mesures. Il leur paraît avant tout urgent que l'Europe avise aux moyens généraux de prévenir le retour d'événements, tels que ceux qui viennent d'éclater à Salonique et qui menacent de se reproduire à Smyrne et à Constantinople. A cet effet les Grandes Puissances devraient, à leur avis, se concerter sur les dispositions à prendre, pour préserver la sécurité de leurs nationaux et celles des habitants Chrétiens de l'Empire Ottoman, sur tous les points où elle se trouve compromise.

Ce but semblerait pouvoir être atteint par un accord général concernant l'envoi des bâtiments de guerre sur les points menacés, et l'adoption d'instructions combinées aux commandants de ces navires pour les cas où les circonstances exigeraient de leur part une co-opération armée en vue du maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité.

Toutefois ce but ne serait qu'imparfaitement atteint si la cause première de ces agitations n'étaient point écartée par la prompte pacification de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine.

Les Grandes Puissances se sont déjà réunies dans cette pensée sur l'initiative prise dans la dépêche du 30 Décembre dernier, afin d'obtenir une amélioration effective du sort des populations de ces contrées, sans porter atteinte au *status quo* politique.

Elles ont demandé à la Porte un programme de réformes destinées à répondre à ce double but. La Porte, déférant à cette demande, s'est déclarée fermement résolue à mettre ces réformes à exécution et l'a officiellement communiqué aux Cabinets.

Il en est résulté pour ceux-ci un droit moral, celui de veiller à l'accomplissement de cette promesse, et une obligation, celle d'insister pour que les insurgés et les réfugiés secondent cette œuvre d'apaisement en cessant la lutte et en rentrant dans leurs foyers.

Cependant, ce programme de pacification, bien qu'accepté en principe par toutes les parties, a rencontré un double écueil.

Les insurgés ont déclaré que l'expérience du passé leur défendait de se fier aux promesses de la Porte, à moins d'une garantie matérielle positive de l'Europe.

La Porte a déclaré de son côté qu'aussi longtemps que les insurgés parcouraient le pays en armes, et que les réfugiés ne se repatriaient pas, il lui était matériellement impossible de procéder à la nouvelle organisation du pays.

En attendant les hostilités ont repris leur cours. L'agitation entretenue par cette lutte de huit mois s'est étendue à d'autres parties de la Turquie. Les populations Musulmanes ont dû en conclure que la Porte n'avait déféré qu'en apparence à l'action diplomatique de l'Europe, et qu'au fond elle n'avait pas l'intention d'appliquer sérieusement les réformes promises. De là un reveil des passions religieuses et politiques, qui a contribué à amener les déplorables évènements de Salonique et la surexcitation menaçante qui se manifeste sur d'autres points de l'Europe Ottoman.

Il n'est pas douteux non plus qu'à son tour cette explosion du fanaticisme réagit sur la situation des esprits en Bosnie et en Herzegovine, comme dans les Principautés voisines.

Car les Chrétiens de ces contrées ont dû être vivement impressionnés par le fait du massacre de Consuls Européens, en plein jour, dans une ville paisible, sous les yeux des autorités impuissantes, alors qu'on les engage à se confier au bon vouloir des Turcs irrités par une lutte longue et acharnée.

Si cette situation se prolongeait on risquerait ainsi de voir s'allumer l'incendie générale que la médiation des Grandes Puissances avait précisément en vue de conjurer.

Il est donc de toute nécessité d'établir certaines garanties de nature à mettre hors de doute l'application loyale et complète des mesures arrêtées entre les Puissances et la Porte. Plus que jamais il est urgent de peser sur le Gouvernement du Sultan pour se décider à se mettre sérieusement à l'œuvre afin de remplir les engagements contractés par lui envers l'Europe.

Comme premier pas à faire dans cette voie, les trois Cours Impériales proposent d'insister auprès de la Porte, avec toute l'énergie que doit avoir la voix unie des Grandes Puissances, afin de l'amener à une suspension d'armes pour le terme de deux mois.

Ce délai permettrait d'agir à la fois sur les insurgés et les réfugiés, pour leur donner confiance dans la sollicitude vigilante de l'Europe, sur les Principautés voisines, pour les exhorter à ne pas entraver cette tentative de conciliation, et enfin sur le Gouvernement

Ottoman, pour le mettre en demeure d'accomplir ses promesses. On pourrait ainsi ouvrir la voie à des pourparlers directs entre la Porte et les délégués Bosniques et Herzégoviniens, sur la base des vœux que ceux-ci ont formulés et qui ont été jugés aptes à servir de points de départ à une discussion.

Ces points sont les suivants :—

1. Les matériaux pour la reconstruction des maisons et églises seraient fournis aux réfugiés rentrants, leur subsistance serait assurée jusqu'à ce qu'ils puissent vivre de leur travail.

En tant que la distribution des secours relèverait du Commissaire Turc, celui-ci devrait s'entendre sur les mesures à prendre avec la Commission Mixte, mentionnée dans la note du 30 Décembre, afin de garantir l'application sérieuse des réformes et d'en contrôler l'exécution. Cette Commission serait présidée par un Herzégovinien Chrétien, composée d'indigènes représentant fidèlement les deux religions du pays ; ils seraient élus dès que l'armistice aura suspendu les hostilités.

3. A l'effet d'éviter toute collision, le conseil serait donné à Constantinople de concentrer les troupes Turques, au moins jusqu'à l'apaisement des esprits, sur quelques points à convenir.

4. Les Chrétiens garderaient les armes comme les Musulmans.

5. Les Consuls ou délégués des Puissances exerceront leur surveillance sur l'application des réformes en général et sur les faits relatifs au repatriement en particulier.

Si avec l'appui bienveillant et chaleureux des Grandes Puissances et à la faveur de l'armistice, un arrangement pouvait être conclu sur ces bases, et mis immédiatement en œuvre par la rentrée des réfugiés et l'élection de la Commission Mixte, un pas considérable aurait été fait vers la pacification.

Si, cependant, l'armistice s'écoulait sans que les efforts des Puissances réussissent à atteindre le but qu'elles ont en vue, les trois Cours Impériales sont d'avis qu'il deviendrait nécessaire d'ajouter à leur action diplomatique la sanction d'une entente, en vue des mesures efficaces qui paraîtraient réclamées dans l'intérêt de la paix générale, pour arrêter le mal et en empêcher le développement.

(Translation.)

THE alarming tidings which come from Turkey are of a nature to impel the three Cabinets to draw closer their intimacy.

The three Imperial Courts have deemed themselves called upon to concert amongst themselves measures for averting the dangers of the situation, with the concurrence of the other Great Christian Powers.

It appears to them that the existing state of affairs in Turkey demands a double series of measures. It seems to them of primary importance that Europe should consider the general means necessary to guard against the recurrence of events similar to those which have recently taken place at Salonica, and the repetition of which is threatened at Smyrna and Constantinople. To effect this the Great Powers should, in their opinion, come to an understanding as to the measures to be taken to insure the safety of their own subjects and of the Christian inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire, at all points where it may be found to be endangered.

It would appear possible to attain this end by a general agreement concerning the dispatch of vessels of war to the menaced points, and by the adoption of combined instructions to the Commanders of those vessels in cases where circumstances might require armed co-operation on their part with the object of maintaining order and tranquillity.

Nevertheless this end would be but imperfectly attained if the primary cause of those disturbances were not removed by the prompt pacification of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Great Powers have already united in this view upon the initiative taken in the despatch of the 30th of December last, with the object of obtaining an effective amelioration in the condition of the populations of these countries, without interfering with the political *status quo*.

They demanded of the Porte a programme of reforms destined to answer this double purpose. The Porte, deferring to this demand, declared itself firmly resolved to execute these reforms, and communicated this officially to the Cabinets.

The latter thereby acquire a moral right—that of watching over the accomplishment of this promise, and an obligation, that of insisting that the insurgents and refugees should second this work of pacification by terminating the struggle and returning to their homes.

Nevertheless, this programme of pacification, though it has been adopted in principle by both parties, has encountered a twofold obstacle.

The insurgents have declared that past experience forbids them to trust the promises of the Porte, without a positive material European guarantee.

The Porte, on its side, has declared that, as long as the insurgents were scouring the country in arms, and the refugees did not return to their homes, it was materially impossible for it to proceed to the new organization of the country.

In the meantime hostilities have resumed their course. The agitation engendered by this strife of eight months has extended to other parts of Turkey. The Mussulman populations have been thereby led to conclude that the Porte had only apparently deferred to the diplomatic action of Europe, and that at heart it did not intend seriously to apply the promised reforms. Thence arose a revival of religious and political passions, which has contributed to cause the deplorable events at Salonica and the menacing overexcitement which manifests itself at other points of European Turkey.

Nor is it doubtful that in its turn this explosion of fanaticism reacts on men's minds in Bosnia and Herzegovina as in the neighbouring Principalities.

For the Christians in these countries must have been keenly impressed by the fact of the massacre of the European Consuls, in open day, in a peaceful town, under the eyes of powerless authorities; how then can they be induced to trust themselves to the good will of Turks irritated by a protracted and sanguinary struggle?

Were this state of affairs to be prolonged the risk would thus be incurred of seeing that general conflagration kindled which the mediation of the Great Powers was precisely intended to avert.

It is most essential, therefore, to establish certain guarantees of a nature to insure beyond doubt the loyal and full application of the measures agreed upon between the Powers and the Porte. It is more than ever urgent to press the Government of the Sultan to decide on setting itself seriously to work to fulfil the engagements it has contracted towards Europe.

As the first step in this direction the three Imperial Courts propose to insist with the Porte, with all the energy that the united voice of the three Powers should possess, on a suspension of arms being effected for the term of two months.

This interval would enable action to be brought to bear simultaneously on the insurgents and the refugees, to inspire them with confidence in the vigilant solicitude of Europe; on the neighbouring Principalities, to exhort them not to hinder this attempt at conciliation; and finally on the Ottoman Government, to place it in a position to carry out its promises. By this means the way might be opened for direct negotiations between the Porte and the Bosnian and Herzegovinian delegates, on the basis of the wishes the latter have formulated, and which have been deemed fit to serve as starting points for a discussion.

These points are as follows:—

1. That materials for the reconstruction of dwelling-houses and churches should be furnished to the returning refugees, that their subsistence should be assured to them till they could support themselves by their own labour.

2. In so far as the distribution of help should appertain to the Turkish Commissioner, he should consult as to the measures to be taken with the Mixed Commission, mentioned in the note of the 30th of December, to guarantee the *bonâ fide* application of the reforms and control their execution. This Commission should be presided over by a Herzegovinian Christian, and be composed of natives faithfully representing the two religions of the country. They should be elected as soon as the armistice should have suspended hostilities.

3. In order to avoid any collision, advice should be given at Constantinople to concentrate the Turkish troops, at least until excitement has subsided on some points to be agreed upon.

4. Christians as well as Mussulmans should retain their arms.

5. The Consuls or Delegates of the Powers shall keep a watch over the application of the reforms in general, and on the steps relative to the repatriation in particular.

If, with the friendly and cordial support of the great Powers, and by the help of an armistice, an arrangement could be concluded on these bases, and be set in train immediately by the return of the refugees, and the election of the Mixed Commission, a considerable step would be made towards pacification.

If, however, the armistice were to expire without the efforts of the Powers being successful in attaining the end they have in view, the three Imperial Courts are of opinion that it would become necessary to supplement their diplomatic action by the sanction of an agreement with a view to such efficacious measures as might appear to

be demanded in the interest of general peace, to check the evil and prevent its development.

No. 249.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 15.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 30, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of the 28th of April early yesterday morning.

It being the Emperor's birthday a Court of felicitation was held at the Palace, at which the Corps Diplomatique was present, and I was consequently unable to call on Prince Gortchakow.

As the question was one of urgency, and it was desirable that no delay should take place in commmunicating to Prince Gortchakow the opinions expressed by your Lordship, I addressed a private letter to his Highness (of which I annex a copy), in which I embodied the substance of your Lordship's telegram.

I received a note from his Highness this morning requesting me to call upon him. I waited on his Highness at the hour named.

He immediately referred to the subject of my private letter. His Highness stated that the Turkish Ambassador had also communicated to him, and left a copy of a circular telegram which had been addressed to the Turkish Representatives at the European Courts, which had probably given rise to your Lordship's communication, the general purport of which was to appeal to the European Powers to secure the neutrality of Montenegro in the impending conflict between the Turkish troops and the insurgents.

His Highness told me that he had replied to Kabouli Pasha that what he had read to him "n'était qu'un roman tandis qu'il demandait de l'histoire."

He observed that Russia and Austria had hitherto successfully exercised their influence to restrain both Montenegro and Servia from taking part in the contest; that, up to the present moment, all that the Powers had received from the Porte had been a written promise to carry out reforms, not one of which had as yet received the semblance of execution; and that the Porte, at the time when efforts were being made by Austria and the other Powers to bring about an armistice and a pacification, had appealed to arms.

His Highness informed Kabouli Pasha that he had no answer to give to his communication.

Prince Gortchakow then informed me, in reference to the communication I had made, that, under the circumstances he had related to me, and in view of the menacing attitude which the Porte still continued to observe towards Montenegro, he could take no further steps in regard to inducing the Prince of Montenegro to maintain his neutrality, nor indeed could he answer that the Prince of Montenegro may not be forced by circumstances into action.

His Highness said that he considered, on the contrary, the gravity of the situation required that the European Powers should hold the most energetic language to the Porte, with a view to the adoption of such concessions as will reasonably satisfy the insurgents, and thereby give peace to her disaffected subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 249.

Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakow.

Mon Prince, *Ambassade d'Angleterre, St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{17}{29}$ *Avril,* 1876.

N'AYANT pas l'espoir de trouver votre Altesse aujourd'hui, et ayant reçu une communication de la part du Comte Derby qui n'admet pas de délai, je le crois de mon devoir de la communiquer à votre Altesse par écrit.

Le Comte Derby m'informe que l'Ambassadeur de Turquie lui a communiqué un télégramme de son Gouvernement annonçant que Moukhtar Pacha a reçu les ordres de partir de Gatzko avec des forces suffisants pour ravitailler Niksich, et que la Porte avait reçu des informations que le Prince de Monténégro concentre ses troupes dans cette

direction et se propose à prendre part au combat qui peut avoir lieu au passage du Douga.

La Porte représente qu'ayant déféré aux conseils des Puissances, elle est à même d'espérer qu'elles useraient de leur influence auprès du Prince de Monténégro pour le détourner de tout projet de ce genre, et de le décider à garder une stricte neutralité.

Le Gouvernement de la Reine considère cette demande de la Porte comme juste et raisonable, et il espère que les autres Gouvernements partageront cette opinion et conseilleront au Prince de suivre strictement cette voie.

La Porte ayant désavoué toute intention d'attaquer le Monténégro, le Comte Derby est d'avis qu'on devrait également inviter le Prince de Monténégro à garder une neutralité effective.

En priant votre Altesse de vouloir bien me communiquer son opinion sur ce qui précède, je profite, &c.

(Signé) A. LOFTUS.

(Translation.)

Prince, *British Embassy, St. Petersburgh, April* $\frac{17}{29}$, 1876.

AS I did not expect to find your Highness in to-day, and as I have received a communication from the Earl of Derby which is urgent, I think it my duty to communicate it in writing to your Highness.

The Earl of Derby informs me that the Ambassador of Turkey has communicated to him a telegram from his Government announcing that Moukhtar Pasha has received orders to leave Gatzko with sufficient forces to revictual Nichsich; and that the Porte had received information that the Prince of Montenegro is concentrating his troops in this direction, and proposes taking part in the combat which may take place at the passage of the Douga.

The Porte represents that, having deferred to the advice of the Powers, she is in a position to hope that they will employ their influence with the Prince of Montenegro to deter him from all projects of this character, and to compel him to keep a strict neutrality.

Her Majesty's Government think that this demand of the Porte is just and reasonable, and it hopes that the other Governments will share this opinion, and advise the Prince to follow strictly in this course.

Since the Porte has disavowed all intention of attacking Montenegro, the Earl of Derby is of opinion that the Prince of Montenegro ought to be also asked to maintain an effectual neutrality.

Begging that your Highness will be good enough to communicate your opinion on what I have here stated, I avail, &c.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 250.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 15.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 30, 1876.

IN the course of conversation this day with Prince Gortchakow, his Highness spoke in terms of disapproval of the orders sent to the Turkish Commander-in-chief to march on Nichsich at the very moment when Austria was using her best efforts to bring about an armistice and the revictualling of that fort by the Prince of Montenegro; and he foresees from this action of the Porte a great increase of popular indignation on the part of the insurgents, and in lieu of appeasement, an extension of the insurrection.

From certain expressions which fell from Prince Gortchakow I have reason to think that his Highness has strongly urged on Count Andrassy the necessity of closing the port of Klek, and of preventing it from being utilized by the Porte as a basis of military operations.

It is not the first time that Prince Gortchakow has spoken to me in this sense. On the present occasion his Highness observed that as Austria had closed her frontier against the insurgents, the access to Klek should be equally closed to the Porte for military purposes.

Prince Gortchakow stated that he held strictly to the principle of material non-intervention. He had some years ago put forward that principle in regard to the affairs

of Turkey, and had conformed to it. If, therefore, the efforts of the European Powers to effect a pacification between the Porte and the insurgents should prove to be unavailing, although he will do nothing to incite Servia and Montenegro, he can no longer restrain them from action.

There can be no doubt, said his Highness, that in such an event the insurrection would assume much larger proportions, and a flame would be kindled in Bulgaria, Epirus, Thessaly, and Albania, which the Porte, with its weakened resources, would be unable to extinguish; and the Christian Powers of Europe, awakened by public opinion to the call of humanity, will have to interpose to arrest the effusion of blood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 251.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 15.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 9, 1876.

I AM informed, although not officially, that it is the intention of Prince Gortchakow to propose that the Ambassadors of England, France, and Italy shall be invited to co-operate with the Representatives of the three Northern Empires in the deliberations which will take place at Berlin during the presence there of His Highness and Count Andrassy.

At the interview I had with Prince Gortchakow yesterday morning, his Highness was reserved as to the proposals which may be submitted for deliberation at Berlin.

He was evidently indisposed to compromise himself by enunciating his views previous to an exchange of opinions with Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy, but he told me that he hoped to have the pleasure of seeing Lord Odo Russell, with whom he would communicate freely.

As far as I am informed of the views of Prince Gortchakow, his programme will be based on the following conditions:—

1st. The maintenance of the *status quo* territorial.

2nd. The strict fulfilment of the reforms contained in Count Andrassy's note which have been accepted by the Porte, with the addition of certain guarantees based on the counter proposals submitted by the insurgents.

It is not improbable that further eventualities may be discussed between the Imperial Ministers, in conjunction with the Representatives of the other three Powers, and that among them that of a future military intervention in case that the necessity may arise to require it; but I have reason to believe that, even in this extreme case, a military intervention would only be agreed to upon condition that it bore an European character, and that it was carried out under European supervision.

Prince Gortchakow is fully aware that Count Andrassy is strongly opposed to any such obligation being imposed on Austria, and, further, how difficult it would be for Austria, in view of her different Slav nationalities, and their rivality with Hungary, to carry out safely for herself any such measure.

I am further convinced that Prince Gortchakow will scrupulously avoid submitting any proposal distasteful to Count Andrassy, or that would be in any way discordant with his views, as it is the first object of the Russian Chancellor to cement the good understanding existing between Austria and Russia, and to abstain from any step which could produce dissension between them.

I feel persuaded that the predominant wish of the Emperor Alexander is to maintain peace, and that his policy in regard to Eastern affairs is perfectly disinterested, and that his sole object is to aid in pacifying the insurgent provinces of Turkey and in maintaining the Ottoman Empire. I am also convinced that Prince Gortchakow aspires to no exclusive advantages for Russia in the course he is pursuing.

In my telegram of this day, I ventured to suggest that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin should be prepared to attend a Conference of the six Powers should he receive a formal invitation to do so, and I have reason to believe that my French colleague has addressed a similar suggestion to his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 252.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 4, 1876.*

INFORMATION has been received of an insurrectionary movement which has broken out at the village of Otlonkeni, not far from Philippopoli, which lies on the railway beyond Adrianople.

It was known that revolutionary agents were working actively among the Bulgarians, and that arms and ammunition have latterly been introduced in considerable quantities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 253.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 7, 1876.*

IT is impossible to be blind to the fact that the irritation of the Turkish populations has reached a pitch at which little is required to place the Christians in many parts of the Empire in a position of the greatest jeopardy.

The unpopularity of the Sultan and of Mahmoud Pasha, coupled with universal distress, arising from the financial state of the country, has given rise to deep-seated and general discontent.

The effect of the long-continued insurrection is felt by every class of the community, whether Christian or Mussulman; but the latter regard themselves as sufferers from a Christian movement for supremacy countenanced by the Christian Powers, which have allowed every kind of assistance to be given to the insurgents, while the Porte has been prevented from adopting the measures considered necessary to put it down by attacking it at its source.

The Salonica catastrophe cannot fail to increase the prevailing uneasiness; and, as the Porte has shown a readiness to do all that the Representatives can suggest in reference to it, it is essential to avoid everything likely to add to the excitement.

If at the meeting between Prince Bismarck, Prince Gortchakow, and Count Andrassy, about to take place at Berlin, it is proposed to come to some decision with regard to the Herzegovina, it is much to be hoped that nothing will be insisted upon to which the Porte will not be able to consent or to engage to carry out.

The European Governments could, no doubt, enforce any decisions they might arrive at, but they could not do so without imminent risk to the lives of the Christian populations, if their proposals were such that the public opinion of the Mussulmans forced the Porte to resist them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 254.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 15.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, May 7, 1876.*

WE had no Consular Agent nearer than Adrianople to the scene of the movement among the Bulgarians, which occurred at a village not far from Tatar Bazarjik, beyond Philippopoli, and I am still unable to give your Lordship more than the vague information that I have obtained from some of my colleagues.

Count Zichy tells me that the Austrian Consular Agent at Philippopoli reports that five villages have been burned by the insurgents.

General Ignatiew considers that the movement has no political character whatever, it having, he says, been got up by the workmen (among whom are many foreigners, especially Italians), employed on the railway, who are in arrears of pay.

He considers that too much importance should not be attached to the movement.

About 5,000 troops have been despatched from here; and I believe that no exertion should be spared for assuring the immediate suppression of a movement which, if allowed to extend, will become extremely serious.

Justly or unjustly the conviction that Russia is at the bottom of it is universal among both Turks and Christians.

No. 255.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, reporting the particulars which had reached him respecting the Bulgarian movement beyond Philippopoli.

There is, I believe, no doubt of the correctness of what Mr. Dupuis states of the leaders in the affair at Otloukeui, where the disturbance commenced, being Servians or other emissaries of the revolutionary committees.

The Bulgarian population itself has hitherto taken little part, but it appears from Mr. Dupuis' report, and from what I have myself been told at the Porte, that the organizers of the movements pursue the same atrocious policy as was followed in the Herzegovina, by burning and ravaging all villages, whether Mussulman or Christian, if the inhabitants refuse to join them.

The accounts which had been received at the Porte yesterday were satisfactory, the telegraph line and postal communication having been re-established, and it was hoped that the movement would not spread.

There is, however, one danger greatly to be apprehended.

Outrages committed upon the peaceful Mussulmans, and especially upon the women and children, may provoke among the Mahomedans a spirit of fanaticism and revenge likely to lead to similar acts of retaliation, which it may be very difficult to restrain, although the Government declare their determination to do all in their power to prevent it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 255.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Adrianople, May 6, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency other items of intelligence from various parts of this province, which, without pretending to an accuracy in details so difficult under the present excitable state of the country, seem, nevertheless, to indicate a degree of uneasiness and disquietude to the popular mind hitherto unknown.

It was said yesterday that disturbances had occurred at Karabonnar between Yamboli and Eski-Jagoa, and also at Kouleli Bourgas.

At Tatar Bazardjik complete panic seems to have seized the place, and the fears of a general massacre appear to have been so great that the whole of the Christian population betook themselves to their churches, where they passed the whole of Wednesday night last, while the Turks were parading the streets fully armed.

With regard to the occurrence at Otloukeui last week, an eye-witness, a Polish gentleman in the service of the Porte, who returned last night from Tatar Bazardjik, and whose account of the state of affairs there I have no reason to doubt, told me that on reaching that place he found it completely abandoned, all the shops and houses shut up, the inhabitants fled or hid away, and complete disorganization among the railway servants.

The local authorities, on hearing of the massacre at Otloukeui of five zaptiehs and an employé of the konak by insurgents, and fearing an attack on Tatar Bazardjik, collected together an armed force of the Mussulman inhabitants and started in pursuit of the murderers, who immediately fled to the mountains. On the arrival of military reinforcements, however, from this on Thursday last further apprehensions were calmed, and order and tranquillity restored.

I am further informed that the insurgents in the affair at Otloukeui were mostly Bulgarians, led by Servians, who set on fire the villages of peaceful Bulgarians who refused to take part in the rising. In this manner some twenty small villages have been burnt and the inhabitants driven away.

From these circumstances it does not appear that the Turks are committing any acts of violence against peaceful Christians, but rather a warfare is urged among the Bulgarians themselves.

At Sarombez, a village between Tatar Bazardjik and Samakov, four or five zaptiehs were killed by these insurgents, who also committed acts of incendiarism and cut the telegraph wires.

It is conjectured, and probably not without reason, that these partial and desultory risings throughout this province are the following out of a plan of action adopted by the enemies of Turkey, not only to distract and harass the Porte by the carrying on of a guerilla warfare, but also to divide the attention and weaken military operations in the Herzegovina.

Much activity is displayed here in calling out the Redifs of the provinces and dispatching them to the seat of the disturbances, while troops are continually arriving from Constantinople for the same destination.

Another assault was, I hear, made on the railway junction at Koulcli Bourgas on the main line by persons said to be brigands in connection with some Italian workmen, who carried off the whole of the cash found at the station.

A deputation of Bulgarian Poherbadjis, I was informed yesterday, was expected from Philippopoli to wait on the Governor-General of Adrianople, but for what purpose does not transpire.

This state of affairs certainly does not indicate tranquillity, but not to worry your Excellency with vague, exaggerated, and unauthentic rumours of all kinds, I will briefly mention that it was reported attempts were made last week to set on fire the town of Philippopoli in three different places, and an extensive conflagration happening here about the same time, inquiries are being held on the possibility of its having been the work of incendiaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 256.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 9, 1876.*

A FEELING of uneasiness which has been rapidly gaining ground among all classes has become intense within the last day or two, and grounds are not wanting for apprehending serious occurrences.

It is certain that the Mussulmans have been buying up arms of all descriptions, crowds of them being collected round the stalls in the bazaars where they are sold, and the more regular gunsmiths have also been driving a brisk trade, especially in revolvers, many of them, however, being sold to Christians, who are arming for purposes of defence.

Both parties profess to feel a dread of an attack by the other; but I cannot believe the proceedings of the Mahommedans to be purely defensive,—although nothing certain is known of the designs that they may entertain, which may be directed against the Grand Vizier, or even against the Sultan.

There is, however, no doubt that the Softas, or students of the Koran, who are variously estimated at from 5,000 to 60,000, are among the most active purchasers of arms, and their irritation against the Christians is extreme.

I entirely share the opinion of my colleagues that the presence of ships of war in the neighbourhood give a sense of protection to our subjects, and really contribute to their safety and that of the Christians in general; and, knowing Her Majesty's squadron to be at this moment at Jaffa, I have telegraphed to Mr. Eldridge to inform Vice-Admiral Sir James Drummond that I should be glad if he could bring the squadron to Besika Bay, where his early presence would be very useful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 257.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 15.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May* 15, 1876.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that on the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure" at Salonica, Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" has been ordered to proceed to Constantinople.

2. I am therefore to request that you will move the Earl of Derby to cause Her Majesty's Ambassador at that port to be informed, in order that, if necessary, the requisite Firman or authority for that vessel to pass the Dardanelles may be forwarded.

3. I am at the same time to request you will inform his Lordship that Vice-Admiral the Honourable Sir James Drummond will find orders on his arrival at Smyrna to proceed with his squadron to Besika Bay, after coaling, if necessary; also that the following telegram was received yesterday from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" at Salonica:—

"Tranquillity restored; thirty suspected persons arrested yesterday without disturbance; ten ships arrived."*

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 258.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May* 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 14 *Mai*, 1876.

VOUS avez appris par la voie des journaux que des troubles ont eu lieu dernièrement du côté de Tatar Pazardjik, district de Philippopoli. Quoique ces troubles fussent loin d'avoir l'importance que la malveillance a essayé de leur attribuer en les présentant dans la presse comme une insurrection Bulgare, le Gouvernement s'est empressé néanmoins de prendre, dès le début, des mesures énergiques et efficaces, appropriées à la circonstance. Ces mesures ont, heureusement, produit le résultat qu'on était en droit d'en attendre. Les troubles ont été circonscrits tout d'abord, et maintenant ils tendent à s'apaiser; nos dernières informations sont satisfaisantes; elles portent qu'un grand nombre d'insurgés rentrent dans leurs foyers et les autres ne tarderont pas à les suivre.

Veuillez communiquer ce qui précède à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 14, 1876.

YOU have learnt by means of the papers that troubles have lately arisen on the side of Tatar Pazardjik, a district of Philippopoli. Although these troubles were far from having the importance which malevolence has tried to attribute to them by representing them in the papers as forming a Bulgarian insurrection, nevertheless the Government has exerted itself to take from the first energetic and effectual measures, suitable to the occasion. These measures have, happily, produced the results which were justly to be expected from them. The disturbances have had limits set to them from the first, and at present they tend to subside. Our latest information is satisfactory; it is to the effect that a great number of insurgents are returning to their homes, and the remainder will not be long in following them.

I have to request you to communicate the preceding to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

No. 259.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1876.

THE German Ambassador called upon me to-day, and I spoke to him on the subject of the plan proposed by the Three Powers at Berlin, as stated in the Memorandum contained in your Excellency's despatch of the 13th instant, for the pacification of

* See also "Turkey No. 4 (1876)."

Bosnia and Herzegovina. I remarked that, in the first place, it appeared to me that there should be some security for the reality and faithful observance of the contemplated armistice by both sides. The Turks might engage to maintain it, and would no doubt do so, but what reliance could be placed on the insurgents observing it? I conceived that before any plan founded on an armistice is discussed, it should be clearly understood that Servia and Montenegro must be warned, and, if necessary, compelled to refrain from assisting in fomenting the insurrection, or taking other active measures in support of the insurgents during its continuance.

Even then I could not say that the plan seemed to be likely to be successful. Article 1 provided that materials should be furnished for the reconstruction of the churches and houses of the returning refugees, and that their subsistence should be assured for some time to come; but from what we knew of the matter, it seemed likely that this would cost a large sum of money, which the Porte did not possess, and could not borrow.

Moreover, it was questionable whether in justice the Porte should be made responsible for repairing destruction which had been in the main the work of the insurgents themselves.

I passed over the 2nd Article as being one of detail, into which it was not necessary now to enter.

With regard to the 3rd Article, I said that I did not see how peace was to be preserved between the Christian and Mahometan populations if the Turkish troops were to be concentrated as proposed, or how the Turkish Government could be held responsible for the maintenance of order, if the only disciplined force in the country were thus withdrawn. The 4th Article showed this conclusively, since if the insurgents were to return armed to meet the Mussulmans, also retaining their arms, a collision would be inevitable.

I did not lay any stress on the fifth Article, as it might mean much or little, according to the interpretation which might be given to the duties of surveillance by the Consuls or Delegates entrusted with them.

I could not, however, but remark that the intimation contained in the last paragraph of the Memorandum, seemed to leave the disposal of events wholly with the insurgents. It almost amounted to an invitation to them to refuse to entertain any terms that were likely or possible to be offered, since it gave them to understand that by continuing the insurrection they would secure further intervention on their behalf.

I added that these were merely my first impressions, and that it would be necessary for Her Majesty's Government to examine the proposals carefully before returning any definite answer.

Count Münster listened to my observations with attention, and promised to report to his Government what I had said.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 260.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, May* 15, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon to discuss with me the proposals which have been drawn up at Berlin for a further attempt at the pacification of the Herzegovina.

I mentioned to Count Schouvaloff the same objections to the scheme which I had already stated to Count Münster, as reported in my despatch to Lord Odo Russell of this day's date, of which your Excellency will receive a copy.

No. 261.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby *—(*Received May* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May* 15, 1876.

THE Italian and French Governments have agreed to support the new propositions of the Northern Powers at Constantinople.

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* Repeated to Paris, Vienna, Rome, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.

No. 262.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 16.)

My Lord, *Mostar, May 5*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, dated to-day, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, regarding the relief of Nichsich, and giving a sketch of the popular idea of the present political position of the parties interested in the revolt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, May 5*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Moukhtar Pasha reached Nichsich on the 29th April, and succeeded in revictualling the garrison there. He only left Gatzko on the 27th, so that he evidently met little opposition on the march. It is said, however, that, in returning, he had some sharp fighting, and that he inflicted very severe losses on the insurgents. Ali Pasha thinks that he was allowed to reach Nichsich, but that it was hoped to annihilate his force on its return. From various other sources, however, I learn that the opinion prevails that Montenegro and her advisers desire nothing more than that the struggle should be indefinitely prolonged, whereas any crushing disaster to the Turkish arms would bring on an inconvenient crisis, which would inevitably result in war with Montenegro, or European intervention, and therefore the Turks were allowed to pass.

It may, perhaps, be of some use to give your Excellency a slight sketch of what seems to be the prevailing opinion in these regions as to the present political position of most of the parties concerned in this almost incomprehensible disturbance, in which every one seems to profess precisely what he fails to practise. Montenegro professes neutrality, but has really been the most active partisan and supporter of the insurrection. The Prince is supposed to be a mere tool, and if the Principality has as yet gained nothing else, it has received immense sums of money, ostensibly for the use of the poor and wounded insurgents, but of which the greater part finds its way into the pockets of the Prince and his Senators. Of this there is no doubt, and therefore Montenegro is quite content that the present state of affairs, so profitable to herself, may be prolonged. In the meantime she is prepared for war, and imagines that in such a case she will find friends and support; but it is not thought the Prince desires war.

As to Austria, no one seems to entertain a doubt as to the sincerity of the professions of Count Andrassy and his Government, but that Count Andrassy is powerless to carry out his desires is proved by the fact, which is not to be denied, that, in spite of all orders to the contrary, every kind of assistance is still afforded by Dalmatia to the insurrection. My information on this head is too general to admit of a doubt of its truth.

As to Russia, also, the sincerity of Prince Gortchakow and the Government is not questioned, but it is said that the Slav Committees and thousands in Russia contribute money to keep up the revolt. Their desire is said to be a wish to destroy the strength and credit of Turkey, and to embroil Austria in hopeless internal difficulties, for ulterior designs not yet quite apparent.

Lastly, as to the insurrection and the people of this country. The insurrection is, as it always has been, confined to some 5,000 or 6,000 individuals and their chiefs, the greater part of whom had nothing whatever to complain of, as they were practically independent, as I have often explained. The few among them who are really from the Herzegovina properly speaking, after having been forced to rise, have been taught to fight, and now, being well furnished with money and provisions, seem to take pleasure in their lawless life. The chiefs find themselves wealthy, and they and their followers will not lay down their arms as long as they find it so much to their advantage to maintain their present position, caring really no more for their fellow countrymen, for Turkish reforms, justice, and all the griefs which they have put forward than if they never existed. But the thousands of people who were forced to rise, but who were indisposed to fight, and immediately sought escape from coercion, and refuge wherever they could obtain it for themselves and families—who have from the beginning earnestly desired, and do still desire, to return to their homes, but who could not do so because those who

called themselves their chiefs had destroyed their houses and menaced and ill-treated them if they spoke of returning—who have not participated in the slightest degree in the wealth that has been scattered broadcast among these chiefs and their armed followers, mere tools in the hands of others—who have been for months in a state of semi-starvation, and who know that for years to come they cannot hope to obtain the simplest comforts of existence which they have lost,—these, together with numberless families of respectable Mussulmans who have lost their all, are the victims to be pitied, and who have suffered by the detestable political intrigues which caused the outbreak.

I believe that Moukhtar Pasha intends now to attack the insurgents in Baniani, Zupci, and other places, but I have no hope that anything he can do will change the position of affairs.

If the insurgents do not care to meet him, they will simply retire into Montenegro or some other part of the country, and leave the troops to march back again.

There seems to me to be no further interest in the military operations in the Herzegovina, for, unless the position of the Porte with regard to Montenegro be changed, they can lead to no important result. It will continue to be the old story of endeavours to revictual the different garrisons, in which the troops will always be attacked, and always taken at a disadvantage by the so-called insurgents, until there is no further money, and the troops become thoroughly demoralized.

No. 263.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 16, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador spoke to me to-day respecting the plan for the pacification of the insurgent Provinces proposed by the Three Powers at Berlin, and I expressed to him my views on the subject in the same sense as I had spoken to Count Münster and Count Schouvaloff as stated in my despatch to Lord O. Russell and Lord A. Loftus, of which copies are inclosed in my despatch of the 16th instant.

The Turkish Ambassador laid great stress on the unfavourable effect which an armistice would have on the military operations of the Porte, but said that he had not received instructions to express any opinion on the proposed plan.

I gave his Excellency to understand that it was unlikely that Her Majesty's Government would join in pressing the adoption of the proposals on the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 264.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 17.)

My Lord, *Paris, May* 16, 1876.

THE Duc Decazes spoke to me on the 14th instant respecting the points on the Turkish question which Prince Bismarck, Prince Gortchakow, and Count Andrassay had submitted to the Representatives of France, Great Britain, and Italy, at Berlin, the previous day.

The Duc Decazes said that as time pressed, he had not waited to consult Her Majesty's Government, but that having taken the orders of the Marshal President, and after a Council of the Cabinet had been held, he had telegraphed to M. de Gontaut Biron that the French Government concurred generally in the points proposed, and that he had written to the French Ambassador in London to inform Her Majesty's Government thereof.

I telegraphed this information to your Lordship at 6·45 P.M. the same day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 265.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 17.)

My Lord, *Berlin, May 14, 1876.*

AS was to be expected, the French and Italian Governments have at once telegraphed their readiness to support at Constantinople the new propositions of the Northern Powers, which I had the honour of communicating to your Lordship on Saturday.

The Chancellors had hoped for a similar telegraphic reply from Her Majesty's Government, but I took occasion to explain that it could not be expected before next week, because of the intervening Sunday.

Your Lordship, I said, would not be able to consult the other members of Her Majesty's Government before Monday, and the decision come to could not possibly be telegraphed to Berlin before Monday night or Tuesday morning early.

As the labours of the Berlin Conference were otherwise accomplished, and the support of France and Italy acquired, Prince Gortchakow and Count Andrassy resolved to leave Berlin to-morrow morning,—the former for Ems, the latter to Buda-Pesth, and begged that the answer of Her Majesty's Government, which they sincerely hoped would be as favourable as those of France and Italy, might be communicated to them through Prince Bismarck.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 266.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 18, 1876.*

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and read to me a telegram, of which the substance was as follows:—

"The Austrian Government much regretted to learn that Her Majesty's Government entertained strong objections to the plan drawn up at Berlin for the pacification of the Herzegovina. They hoped that if England could not undertake to support the action of the three Powers, she would at all events abstain from opposing it. A two months' armistice would be a considerable gain, and Count Beust was to endeavour to induce the British Government to press its acceptance on the Porte."

Count Beust, acting on this telegram, inquired whether Her Majesty's Government were prepared to support the proposition of an armistice alone, apart from any question of the terms on which a future pacification might be brought about.

I said, in reply, that in considering the question of an armistice, it was necessary to look at its effect in a military and political point of view. Unless the armistice suggested were accompanied by proposals that seemed to hold out a reasonable expectation of the re-establishment of peace, I doubted whether the Porte was likely to accept it, for three reasons.

In the first place, I said, an armed insurrection always gained strength by the mere fact of continuing to exist. The longer it lasts, the smaller is the chance of its being ultimately put down. In the next place, the cost of maintaining a Turkish army of not less than 50,000 men on the frontier could not but press heavily on an exhausted exchequer, while the insurgents, fighting among their own mountains, incurred but little expense, and it was impossible that the troops should not become more or less disorganized by being kept inactive in the face of an enemy. Thirdly. What real guarantee could be given for the maintenance of the armistice? On the Turkish side, there was an organized Government to deal with, and the generals of the Porte would not venture to break engagements into which they had been ordered to enter; but could the same thing be said of the insurgents? Had they recognized Chiefs capable of enforcing obedience along the whole frontier? and if they had, could those Chiefs be relied on? These were considerations which the Government of the Sultan could not overlook.

Count Beust then pressed me to say that if I gave no support to the proposal, I would at least abstain from opposing it.

To this I answered that I was quite aware of the responsibility that would be incurred by any Government that should urge, or even encourage, the Porte to reject

advice supported by so general an agreement of the Continental Powers. I should not press my view, nor did I say that the objections which I had suggested might not be got over; but, if asked, I could only state them for what they might be worth.

Some further conversation followed, in the course of which I told Count Beust that I had no plan to propose, but that it seemed to me idle to talk of putting an end to the war as long as the Prince and people of Montenegro were allowed to give it active support and assistance, as they were doing now, being at the same time guarded by the intervention of the Powers from all fear of retribution on the part of Turkey.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 267.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 30, 1876.*

ACCORDING to the report of Cabouli Pasha, the language of Prince Gortchakow, upon the circular communication of the Porte, asking the Powers to urge Montenegro to remain strictly neutral, was far from encouraging.

He said that Russia had already done more than could be expected from her in causing Servia and Montenegro to remain true to the neutrality which they have hitherto observed.

If the Porte really desired the pacification of the insurgent provinces, it depended upon itself to show a better disposition to make reasonable concessions to the inhabitants.

Cabouli Pasha further states that Prince Gortchakow gave him to understand that Russia would not allow the Porte to attack Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 268.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 2, 1876.*

IT appears from Lord Augustus Loftus' reports to your Lordship that Prince Gortchakow is much irritated with the Porte for having, as he represents, refused the armistice proposed by Austria.

The statement is, however, wholly inaccurate, for as a matter of fact, no proposal for an armistice was made to, or rejected by the Porte, which was only informed that an attempt was being made to induce the insurgents to consent to one.

Had either the Austrian or Russian Ambassador been able to engage that it would be promptly agreed to by the insurgents, so that the arrival of provisions from Scutari could be safely calculated upon, the Porte would certainly have acceded readily to that mode of revictualling the place; but as they were unable to give any assurance upon that point, it became an absolute necessity to order Moukhtar Pasha to relieve it before it should be forced to capitulate.

I have already stated to your Lordship, and I must again repeat, that the persistence shown by General Ignatiew in representing that the Prince of Montenegro could not be responsible for anything that occurred to a convoy of provisions coming from Scutari after it had once left his territories was a principal cause of the abandonment of the plan for revictualling Nichsich from that direction, and of the order for the advance of Moukhtar Pasha from Gatchko.

I have, &c

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 269.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.— (Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 2, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a telegram published this evening by the Porte, from Moukhtar Pasha, giving the details of his last operations.

Nothing can be more explicit than his statement respecting the revictualling of Nichsich, into which, he says, the convoys of provisions were victoriously introduced on Friday last, the 28th April.

If any reliance is to be placed upon his calculation that the reinforcements received by the insurgents brought their force to above 16,000 men, it is not possible to account for the fact otherwise than by the supposition that a very large proportion of them must have come from Montenegro.

No estimate that I have ever heard given of the numbers of the insurgents, independently of the foreign sympathizers, has placed them at much more than a quarter of the force by which Moukhtar Pasha represents himself to have been opposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 269.

Supplement to "La Turquie" of May 2, 1876.

Dépêche adressée à la Sublime Porte par son Excellence Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, en date du 19 Avril (v.s.), ou 1 Mai (n.s.)

JE suis parti de Gatchko Jeudi dernier, avec les troupes Impériales à destination de Niksitch. Jusqu'à Izlastop, où nous avons passé la nuit, nous n'avons pas rencontré d'insurgés.

Le lendemain, Vendredi, nous nous sommes mis en marche pour Niksitch. Les insurgés avaient barré le chemin entre Gornapol et Preshika par des amas de pierres; la plupart d'entr'eux se trouvaient en embuscade dans des plis de terrain. D'après nos renseignements, ils avaient élevé du côté de Sepachna des retranchements pour servir de refuge et de points d'appui; et une grande partie des insurgés se trouvait dans ces retranchements.

Nous avons envoyé inopinément, avant l'arrivée des insurgés, une partie d'une brigade au point où se croisent les routes de Preshika et de Petnoberto. Cet endroit qui est la clef de la position, est propre à faciliter les opérations derrière les embuscades et l'occupation des points faibles de ces retranchements. Dans l'espace d'une heure nos troupes ont occupé une hauteur, et de là elles ont tourné les insurgés placés en embuscade ainsi que leurs retranchements.

Une autre division ayant opéré sa marche par la prairie de Col-Aghassi, les troupes Impériales ainsi ont dirigé leurs attaques sur deux colonnes.

Les ennemis, sortis de leurs embuscades, se sont empressés de se réfugier dans leurs retranchements; mais comme ils étaient exposés à notre feu, ils ont immédiatement occupé une nouvelle position. A la fin, ne pouvant tenir nulle part et après un combat de quatre heures, ils sont dispersés, laissant sur le terrain beaucoup des leurs.

Le même jour, à 8 heures, les convois de vivres ont été conduits victorieusement à Niksitch.

Samedi, à notre retour de bon matin à Preshika, les insurgés ayant reçu des renforts pendant la nuit, nous ont attaqués.

Le combat a duré jusqu'au soir.

Les insurgés n'ayant pu résister aux attaques des troupes Impériales, ont pris la fuite, en laissant sur le terrain un grand nombre de morts.

L'armée Impériale a campé la nuit à Preshika.

Nous avons été informés que les insurgés, qui avaient reçu de nouveaux renforts, s'étaient fortifiés avec toutes leurs forces dans les forêts sises entre Nozra et Preshika, du côté de Piva, pour tenir tête aux attaques de nos troupes. Ils avaient l'intention de

couper nos lignes de retraite. En conséquence, Dimanche, de bon matin, à quelque distance de Preshika, nous avons attaqué la première embuscade. Dans notre marche, de ce dernier point jusqu'à Nozra, nous avons engagé des combats sanglants et plus sérieux que tous les engagements qui avaient eu lieu jusqu'à ce moment. Ces combats ont duré pendant huit heures sans interruption.

Grâce à Dieu, nous avons eu une victoire glorieuse, les insurgés ont été mis en déroute avec des pertes sans précédents pendant l'insurrection.

Nous avons passé la nuit à Izlastop avec les troupes Impériales.

De Nozra à Gatchko, où nous sommes arrivés aujourd'hui, à 9 heures, nous n'avons rencontré aucun insurgé sur notre route.

Dans chacun des combats et surtout dans le dernier, les troupes Impériales ont remporté de grands succès. La victoire a été complète et Niksitsch a été ravitaillé.

Le premier jour, les insurgés étaient au nombre de 8,500; le second jour, leur nombre s'était élevé à 13,500 par suite des renforts qui leur étaient parvenus. Hier, le troisième jour, le chiffre des insurgés était de plus de 16,000 hommes.

Ainsi les forces totales des insurgés s'élevaient à ce nombre. Mais ignorant le jour de départ de Gatchko des troupes Impériales, ils ne se sont concentrés qu'à des intervalles divers.

Il est évident que, même si leur nombre eut dépassé 20,000 hommes, grâce aux manœuvres opérées par les troupes Impériales, ils auraient été mis en déroute complète.

Quant à leurs pertes, dans le premier et le second engagement, comme ils avaient pris précipitamment la fuite, leur morts et blessés ont atteint le chiffre de 300 à 400.

Mais, dans le troisième engagement, dont le résultat a été définitif, les insurgés ont perdu mille hommes en morts et blessés. Comme la forêt était très-épaisse, nous n'avons pas pu distinguer à quel chiffre s'élevait le nombre des Monténégrins qui se trouvaient parmi les insurgés.

Si les deux bataillons envoyés dans la forêt avaient continué la poursuite, les insurgés auraient indubitablement subi des pertes immenses. Mais ainsi que je l'ai dit, la forêt étant très épaisse, j'ai rénoncé à la poursuite des insurgés, parce qu'il était possible que les troupes Impériales qui étaient entrées dans la forêt et celles qui se trouvaient dans différents points n'eussent pu se reconnaître, ce qui aurait occasionné des accidents.

Nous avons pris une grande quantité d'armes appartenant aux insurgés.

Dans tous ces combats, les pertes des troupes Impériales consistent en 58 morts, dont 4 officiers et 54 soldats, et 161 blessés, dont 7 officiers et 154 soldats.

Je vais sommettre incessamment à votre Altesse les noms des officiers qui ont les premiers attaqué les insurgés dans leurs retranchements, et qui méritent des distinctions pour leur vaillante conduite.

(Translation.)

Despatch addressed to the Sublime Porte by his Excellency Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, dated April 19 (*o.s.*), *or May* 1 (*n.s.*).

I STARTED from Gatzko last Thursday with the Imperial troops on the road to Nichsich. As far as Izlastop, where we passed the night, we did not meet with insurgents.

The following day, Friday, we began our march on Nichsich. The insurgents had blocked the road between Garnapol and Preshika with heaps of stones; the greater part of them were in ambuscade in the inequalities of the ground. According to the information we received, they had thrown up in the direction of Sepachua entrenchments for refuge and support; and a large part of the insurgents was in those entrenchments. We had sent unexpectedly, before the arrival of the insurgents, a portion of a brigade to the point where the roads to Preshika and to Petnoberto meet. This place, which is the key of the position, is suited to facilitate operations behind the ambuscades and the occupation of the weak points of those intrenchments. In the space of an hour our troop occupied a height, from which they turned the flank both of the insurgents in ambush and of the intrenchments.

Another division having completed its march by way of the meadow of Col-Aghassi, the Imperial troops then directed their attack in two columns.

The enemy, having quitted their ambuscades, hastened to take refuge in their intrenchments; but as they were exposed to our fire, they at once took up a new position. At length, not being able to maintain their ground anywhere, and after a four hours' battle, they took flight, leaving many of their men on the ground.

The same day, at 8 o'clock, the convoys of provisions were victoriously conducted into Nichsich.

On Saturday, on our return in the early morning to Preshika, the insurgents, who had received reinforcements during the night, attacked us. The battle lasted till night.

The insurgents could not resist the attacks of the Imperial troops, and took flight, leaving on the field a great number of dead.

The Imperial army camped for the night at Preshika.

We had been informed that the insurgents, who had received fresh reinforcements, had fortified themselves with all their forces in the forests lying between Nozra and Preshika, on the direction of Piva, in order to resist the attacks of our troops. Their intention was to cut our lines of retreat.

In consequence, early on Sunday morning we attacked the first ambuscade, some little distance from Preshika. In the course of our march from this last point to Nozra we were engaged in battles that were both sanguinary and more serious than all the engagements that had taken place up to that moment. These fights lasted for eight hours without cessation.

Thanks be to God, we gained a glorious victory, and the insurgents were put to rout with a loss without precedent during the insurrection.

We passed the night at Izlastop with the Imperial troops.

From Nozra to Gatzko, where we arrived to-day at 9 o'clock, we did not meet with a single insurgent on our way.

In each of the battles, and particularly in the last, the Imperial troops gained great successes. Victory has been complete, and Nichsich has been reprovisioned.

On the first day the number of the insurgents was 8,500; on the second day their number had risen to 13,500, in consequence of reinforcements which had reached them. Yesterday, the third day, the total of the insurgents was over 16,000 men.

It follows that the total of the insurgent forces reached this number. But, as they were ignorant of the day on which the Imperial troops started from Gatzko, they only concentrated at different intervals.

It is evident that, even if their number had been over 20,000, thanks to the manœuvres carried out by the Imperial troops, they would have been completely routed.

As to their losses in the first and second engagements, since they took flight precipitately, their killed and wounded reached the figure of 300 or 400.

But in the third engagement, the result of which was decisive, the insurgents lost 1,000 men in killed and wounded. As the forest was very thick, we could not distinguish what was the number of Montenegrins who were with the insurgents.

If the two battalions sent into the forest had continued the pursuit, the insurgents would doubtless have sustained immense losses; but, as I have said, the forest being very thick, I desisted from pursuing the insurgents, on account of the possibility that the Imperial troops which had entered the forest, and those which were at other points, might not recognize each other, which would have led to accidents.

We took a great quantity of arms belonging to the insurgents.

In all these encounters, the losses of the Imperial troops consist in 58 killed, of which 4 were officers and 54 soldiers, and 161 wounded, of whom 7 were officers, and 154 soldiers.

I am about to submit to your Highness forthwith the names of the officers who were the first to attack the insurgents in their entrenchments, and who deserve distinction for their valiant conduct.

No. 270.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 10, 1876.*

ON the receipt of Mr. Acting Consul Freeman's despatches, reporting fresh insurrectionary movements in Bosnia, I communicated their substance to Raschid Pasha, who on each occasion stated that the Porte had no knowledge of anything of the kind and read me the reports from the Governor-General stating that everything was quiet.

The inclosed official notification of an engagement between the troops in Bosnia

and the insurgents has, however, now been published, and proves the accuracy of Mr. Freeman's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 270.

Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte par le Gouverneur-Général de Bosnie, en date du 25 Avril (v.s.)

LE Gouverneur de Bekhé vient de m'informer que le Général de Division Veli Pacha, en route pour Bekhé, a rencontré dans le défilé de Tchorolovitza, dans le caza de Nevessil, une bande composée à peu près de 1,500 insurgés, qui, dès deux côtés du défilé, rendu encore plus inaccessible par les retranchements qu'ils avaient élevés, guettaient le passage des troupes Impériales. Un combat qui a duré quatre heures s'engagea avec les insurgés. Ces derniers ont subi une défaite complète. Les troupes se sont emparées des positions occupées par les insurgés.

Dans cet engagement les rebelles ont perdu plus de soixante morts et un grand nombre d'armes et de munitions sont tombées entre les mains de nos troupes. Veli Pacha, qui se trouve actuellement à Petrofiza, partira aujourd'hui pour Bekhé.

(Translation.)

Telegram addressed to the Sublime Porte by the Governor-General of Bosnia, dated April 25 (o.s.).

I HAVE just been informed by the Governor of Bekhé that the General of Division, Veli Pasha, on his way to Bekhé, met in the defile of Tchorolovitza, in the caza of Nevessil, a band composed of about 1,500 insurgents, who, from the two sides of the defile, made still more inaccessible by the entrenchments they had thrown up, were upon the watch for the passage of the Imperial troops.

A fight which lasted four hours commenced with the insurgents. These last sustained a complete defeat. The troops seized the positions occupied by the insurgents.

In this engagement the rebels lost more than 60 killed, and a great quantity of arms and ammunition fell into the hands of our troops. Veli Pasha, who is now at Petroviza, will start to-day for Bekhé.

No. 271.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 10, 1876.*

THE critical nature of the state of things here becomes daily more pronounced.

Although I believe the Government more than the Christians to be the object of the designs of the Mussulmans, I consider that in case of a disturbance the Christians would run great danger from the prevailing spirit of fanaticism, and it is doubtful whether reliance is to be placed in the army, if it were called upon to act against a Mussulman mob.

In these circumstances, believing that it would add both to the confidence of the Christians here, and to their real security, if a British squadron were known to be at Besika Bay, I requested the Admiral to bring it there.

The presence of a second British vessel at Constantinople would also be desirable; and all my colleagues have asked their Governments to send an armed gun-boat in addition to their ordinary stationnaires.

I have, &c
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S. *May* 12.—The Russian gun-boat is expected to-morrow.

H. E.

No. 272.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 12, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, herewith, the copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis respecting the recent outbreak in Bulgaria, and also the copy of a report addressed to him from Eski Zagra by his Dragoman.

As soon as a Government is formed here, to which I can present representations, I shall not fail to communicate to it Mr. Kyriatzi's report, and to point out the danger of allowing the local authorities to act as those of Eski Zagra have apparently been doing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 272.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Adrianople, May 9, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that telegrams received yesterday at the Konak announce a more reassuring state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Tatar-Bazardjik, and that the insurgents having been all driven away from the plains and taken refuge to the mountains, the Commander-in-chief asks for re-inforcements to follow up the insurgents.

I am not in a position to be able to judge, but, from what I learn, it seems that, rightly or wrongly, the authorities here blame Aziz Pasha, the Mutessarif of Philippopoli, for the sudden outbreak at Otloukeui, by attributing to him incapacity as a functionary, and Slav sympathies in not calling attention in time to the state of things in that part of the country; on the other hand, I also learn that the Mutessarif came to Adrianople some twenty days ago and gave timely warning of a projected organised rising of the Bulgarians, and urged the necessity of despatching troops without delay.

The state of affairs was at once brought to the knowledge of the authorities at Constantinople by Akif Pasha, the Governor-General, but that Dervish Pasha, the late Minister of War, either not crediting the report, or attaching little importance to it, neglected forwarding the reinforcements asked for, until the matter was laid before Izziden Effendi, the Sultan's son; of course I do not vouch for the truth of this latter statement, and I only repeat it to your Excelleney as I heard it.

It is surmised that the rising was planned to take place on the 5th of this month (the festival of the Greek St. George), but that matters were precipitated, some say by the conduct of a Government employé, who abused the daughter of a Christian Tchubadji, others that some Bulgarians, on being called upon by the collectors, refused to pay the sheep tax.

I have no further intelligence respecting the state of affairs in Philippopoli beyond what I reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 7th instant. I am, therefore, inclined to believe that the panic has somewhat ceased, and that the presence of the military has reassured the people.

In this city the anxiety and uneasiness of the popular mind, strained during the last few days by all kinds of rumours of pillage, massacre, and firing the town by Turks or insurgents, finds some relief in the announcements telegraphed from the scene of the outbreak, still as nobody can tell what may be the next move, valuables are being packed and stored in places of safety, and families preparing to quit the place; among the latter I may mention the family of my Russian colleague.

As a measure of precaution against a possible disturbance of the public peace strong military pickets are stationed at the various quarters of the city, and the patrols doubled during the night.

Considerable anxiety is also being displayed in the manufacture of bullets and cartridges, and in the making of biscuits for the troops.

In conclusion, I may inform your Excellency that the last Overland mail for England, viâ Belgrade, came back from Sofia last night, as it was found impracticable to proceed further, owing to the military occupation of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 272.

M. Kyriatzi to Vice-Consul Dupuis.

(Traduction.)

M. le Consul, *Eski Zagara, le* $\frac{25 \text{ Avril}}{7 \text{ Mai}}$, 1876.

PAR ma présente je m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance l'actuel état politique de ces localités.

Le Gouverneur-Général du vilayet a télégraphié au Caïmacam de Zagara à plusieurs reprises afin d'armer tous les Musulmans et de les faire parcourir la ville pendant toute la nuit, pour prévenir toute attaque à craindre de la part des Bulgares. Sur vingt Bachi-bozouks (bandes irrégulières) on a mis deux Bulgares. Quant aux villages d'alentour on a expédiés deux ex-gardiens de bois (couroudjis), brigands fameux et hommes de la plus mauvaise conduite, nommés Caradjos Ismail et Ibiche Moulazim, pour parcourir les villages. Ces fameux brigands, par leur conduite honteuse, et par leurs abus, ne feront autre chose que d'aggraver la situation actuelle, et de provoquer des affaires qui, pour le moment, grâce à Dieu, n'existent pas, parce que les villages sont en tranquillité, et les villageois ne pensent à d'autres choses qu'à la culture de leurs champs.

Je crois remplir un devoir en vous traçant ces lignes, et en attirant votre attention sur les mesures imprudentes prises par le Gouvernement pour armer tous les Musulmans, qui dans ces endroits étant d'une férocité connue, feront des abus de mille espèces, et peut-être ils troubleront la tranquillité actuelle du pays. Veuillez donc, M. le Consul, d'en faire part à qui de droit et d'agir pour le désarmement des Bachi-bozouks et l'expédition immédiate de troupes régulières afin de prévenir les dangers qui menacent le pays.

(Signé) A. D. X. KYRIATZI.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul, *Eski Zagara*, $\frac{\text{April } 25}{\text{May } 7}$, 1876.

BY this despatch I am desirous to bring to your knowledge the actual political state of this district.

The Governor-General of the vilayet has telegraphed to the Kaïmakam of Lazara several times, to arm all the Mussulmans, and to make them patrol the town throughout the night, to avert any attack to be feared on the part of the Bulgarians. Two Bulgarians were attached to every twenty Bashi-Bazouks (irregular bands). As to the surrounding villages, two ex-keepers of woods were sent out, notorious brigands and men of the worst character, called Caradjos Ismail and Ibiche Moulazim, to patrol the villages. These notorious brigands, by their disgraceful conduct and by their excesses, can do nothing but aggravate the present state of affairs, and provoke troubles which, thanks be to God, do not exist, because the villages are tranquil, and the villagers think of nothing but the cultivation of their land.

I believe I am fulfilling a duty in writing you these lines, and in calling your attention to the imprudence of the measures taken by the Government in arming all the Mussulmans, who, as they are well known in this neighbourhood to be of most savage disposition, will be guilty of every kind of excess, and will possibly disturb the present tranquillity of the country.

I beg, therefore, M. le Consul, that you will make this known in the proper quarter, and urge the disarming of the Bashi-Bazouks and the immediate despatch of regular troops, in order to avert the dangers which threaten the district.

(Signed) A. D. X. KYRIATZI

No. 273.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, May 13*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copy of a despatch I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 9th instant.

Since its dispatch nothing has occurred here to disturb the tranquillity of the vilayet.

I shall not fail to immediately report to your Lordship and Her Majesty's Ambassador whatever may come to my knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 273.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, May* 9, 1876.

I HAVE recently heard various rumours here respecting one part or another of this Province, but they were so conflicting that I thought I might be able to give some correct and useful information at the fair which opens annually on St. George's day (the 5th May) at Eski Djuma, a town about seven hours distant from this, and about four west by south from Shumla.

I accordingly proceeded there on Wednesday last, and returned on Saturday.

During my two days' stay there I managed to converse with people from almost every direction of the vilayet, but in every case, whilst discontent was certainly expressed, I perceived a decided determination to avoid anything like a rising against the Government.

I found much discontent at the fair from another cause, and that was the general refusal of the merchants to grant the usual credit to the villagers and small shopkeepers, and which was attributed to the uncertainty in the minds of the merchants from the present political and financial state of the Empire. The consequence is that the present fair is a decided failure compared with those of preceding years. For instance, the average number of pieces of cotton manufacture brought to the fair for sale has hitherto been about 180,000; this year only 15,000 have been conveyed there; and hitherto almost every magazine of the fair has been occupied; this year about one-third are closed.

On my return from Eski Djuma I had an interview with the Governor-General, in order to ascertain what he had to say on the state of the vilayet.

His Excellency said that for the moment he had nothing to fear except in that portion bordering on the north-western part of the Sandjak of Philippopoli, which might be affected by what had occurred in the latter, and which he had heard was as follows:—

It appears that some Servian secret emissaries had been found in the village, or rather town, of Avratalan, and orders were sent for their arrest, which, on being put into execution, were resisted by the inhabitants, supported by those of the adjacent large village, Otlou-Keui.

A collision ensued, resulting, as the Pasha has heard, in the death of three gendarmes and the wounding of one of the mudirs.

Up to this the Pasha has only heard the foregoing, but as it is to be feared that two other neighbouring large places called Akdje-Klissé and Karlova may join the other two, he has ordered the Governor of Sofia to send to the spot what force he can spare to assist others that are said to have been dispatched also there from the other side. The four places named contain altogether about 8,000 houses.

His Excellency said that notwithstanding all the vigilance of the authorities under his superintendence secret emissaries have possibly managed to enter the vilayet, and, therefore, if the affair of Avratalan is not speedily arrested, disturbances may break out in other quarters and within his jurisdiction.

Until, however, he receives further intelligence he cannot say any more on the subject than that he is taking every precaution at every suspected point.

His Excellency also informed me that a few days ago a small Servian steamer had been seen towing down the Danube, near Widdin, a barge, said to contain several thousand rifles. On this report reaching him, he ordered the gunboats, between this and Widdin, to closely watch these vessels, which, perceiving that they were discovered, disappeared in the direction of Servia.

Since writing the foregoing I have perused a letter from Lom Palouku, between this and Widdin, stating that a quantity of arms and ammunition had arrived there for distribution amongst the Mussulmans, and I have just ascertained that yesterday a considerable number of cases containing similar arms arrived here from Constantinople, and were immediately sent on to Tirnova to be deposited there for distribution in case of need.

The inhabitants of Gabrova at the foot of and on this side the Balkans have petitioned the Governor-General for some troops to be quartered there, and his Excellency has just ordered a battalion to the spot.

All this would tend to show that something serious is apprehended, but as there are now all round and within easy distance of the disturbed quarter about eighteen or twenty battalions of troops, those here capable of judging thereon do not think that there is really anything to fear for the present.

Troops are on their way from Nish to Sofia, and others, as I said before, are going to the spot from the other side.

I have also just heard of an event said to have occurred near Avratalan which, if true, may bring on serious complications. It is said that a Circassian village in that vicinity has been burnt; if so, the Circassians, generally a lawless set, are sure to take their revenge, and this may severely tax the Government to put down when once commenced.

This report is based on what I have heard in generally reliable quarters. On this side the Balkans I am persuaded that there will be nothing to apprehend if the disturbances I have mentioned are speedily put down; but if the flame is allowed to spread, it will then be difficult to say when it will be arrested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 274.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 19.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May* 16, 1876.

COUNT ANDRASSY returned here last night and will proceed to Buda Pesth to-morrow. I called at the Foreign Office to-day, but was unable to see him, as he was about to proceed to the palace to have an audience of the Emperor. I saw Baron Hofmann for an instant, who had returned from Pesth to meet his Excellency; and I mentioned to him that the Cabinet would only meet to-day, at which a decision would be taken on the proposals of the three Northern Powers to Her Majesty's Government on the affairs of the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 274*.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 19.)

My Lord, *Berlin, May* 17, 1876.

M. B. PETROVICH NJEGOSCH, the President of the Senate of Montenegro, called on me to-day and asked me to forward the inclosed letter to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 274*.

Mémoire adressé par Son Altesse le Prince de Monténégro au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique.

DEPUIS des années la province d'Herzégovine a été le théâtre de désordres continuels, et la position de la majorité Chrétienne des habitants a été rendue intolérable. Les réformes et garanties accordées, à plusieurs reprises, par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan, avec une bonne foi que nous sommes loin de suspecter, n'ont pas atteint leur but, parce que, là, comme malheureusement partout, les autorités chargées de les appliquer ont pris à tâche d'en annuler l'effet, en quoi elles ont été activement aidées par la minorité Mahométane. Celle-ci, de concert avec les magistrats civils et judiciaires, comme avec les chefs militaires, n'a jamais manqué, après la publication à grand fracas des décrets de la Porte, d'en faire une lettre morte, même avant que

l'application en eût été tentée. Les vexations et les dénis de justice, dans les grandes comme dans les petites choses, continuaient, comme par le passé, et le Rayas n'avait, pas plus qu'auparavant, une heure de sécurité pour sa personne, sa famille et ses biens. Une situation pareille exaspérerait les populations les plus douces ; à plus forte raison ne pouvait-on pas attendre une patience sans bornes d'un peuple soustrait à toute influence civilisatrice et auquel ses maîtres mêmes donnaient l'exemple du mépris des lois. La vie même était devenue insupportable ; or, quand un peuple en est réduit là, on sait ce qui arrive.

Une preuve frappante du désespoir, auquel les Herzégoviniens étaient réduits, est la confraternité parfaite à laquelle la souffrance de tous les jours a amené deux religions ennemies. Pour qui connaît la haine qui divise partout en Orient les Catholiques Romains et les Orthodoxes du rite Grec, il y a là un fait qui parle de lui-même. A l'heure qu'il est, des prêtres Catholiques et des popes Grecs combattent confondus dans les mêmes rangs.

Dans le courant de l'année 1874, la misère des Chrétiens étant arrivée à son apogée, il y eut, dans diverses parties de la province, des mouvements précurseurs d'un soulèvement, auxquels les autorités répondirent par un redoublement de rigueurs et par l'arrestation sommaire d'un certain nombre de notables. D'autres, échappant aux recherches, se réfugièrent au Monténégro, demandant au Prince de leur donner un asyle, et, même, de les aider à secouer le joug.

Le Prince Nicolas, fidèle aux lois internationales, refusa d'écouter cette dernière demande ; mais, connaissant bien quel était l'état des choses qui avait nécessité la fuite de ses hôtes, il fit tout ce qu'il pût pour leur rendre possible leur retour en sûreté dans leurs foyers. Il porta, en même temps, à la connaissance des Puissances la situation où se trouvaient les territoires avoisinant les siens, par une Mémoire en date du mois d'Avril, 1875.

Alors, comme toutes les fois qu'il s'est agi d'une œuvre bienfaisante, il eut le bonheur d'obtenir le puissant concours du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche, qui voulut bien se faire à Constantinople l'intermédiaire des vœux de Son Altesse. Grâce à cet appui, la Porte accorda une amnistie pour les faits d'agitation et pour le départ illégal des notables. En outre, elle institua une Commission de fonctionnaires, chargée de recevoir les réclamations des Herzégoviniens et d'y faire droit. Les émigrés une fois rentrés et la Commission installée, il arriva ce qui est toujours arrivé en Turquie, depuis que les Sultans ont entrepris les réformes ; les nouveaux Décrets ont été laisses inexécutés comme les précédents et les Délégués ne firent que commencer, pour la forme, l'enquête dont ils étaient chargés. Les indigènes Musulmans, irrités, redoublèrent de violences et de vexations, sous les yeux de la Commission impuissante ou complice ; et les Chrétiens, à bout de patience, n'écoutèrent plus que leur désespoir.

C'est ainsi que l'insurrection actuelle éclata, sans entente préalable et sans préparation quelconque.

Il est bien inutile de faire l'historique de cette guerre de détail, de surprises, de petits combats, qui n'a été signalée que par l'acharnement des deux parties et par les vengeances exercées, sans distinctions, sur des districts entiers par les Turcs.

Dès le début de cette crise, les Puissances Chrétiennes désireuses, comme de juste, de circonscrire le foyer de l'incendie, pour l'empêcher de devenir par degrés une conflagration générale, s'adressèrent au Prince de Monténégro, dont l'action pouvait déterminer ou empêcher les complications les plus graves. Entrant sans hésitation dans leurs vues et mû par les mêmes sentiments d'ordre et de paix, le Prince donna sa promesse d'observer la neutralité et il est heureux de pouvoir dire qu'il a tenu cet engagement. Il tient même à faire remarquer, en passant, qu'il a donné une preuve frappante, à la fois, de sa fidélité à ses engagements et de son pouvoir sur son peuple, en empêchant celui-ci de se jeter aveuglement dans la lutte, comme il l'eût fait autrefois. Ce fait montre, comme il n'est pas inutile de l'observer, quels progrès le pays a fait dans la voie de l'ordre et du respect des lois, pendant le dernier quart de siècle.

Passant sous silence les incidents de la guerre, nous pouvons en venir à la tentative pacifique fait, d'un commun accord, par les Grandes Puissances et résumée dans la note bien connue de son Excellence M. le Comte Andrassy. Les principes posés par cette note ayant été acceptés par la Sublime Porte, celle-ci chargea une Commission Spéciale d'en préparer l'application. Ce que ces Commissaires ont fait est exprimé par un seul mot : Rien.

Pendant que ces délégués continuaient à Mostar la politique négative suivie par tous leurs prédécesseurs, l'Autriche, prenant au sérieux sa mission de paix, chargeait

son Gouverneur-Général en Dalmatie, M. le Baron de Rodich, de s'aboucher avec les insurgés et d'obtenir d'eux l'acceptation des réformes proposées par M. le Comte Andrassy. L'assistance du Prince de Monténégro fut demandée pour cela et donnée sans réserve. Grâce à son interposition active et à celle de l'Autriche, un armistice de douze jours fut conclu, pour donner aux chefs le temps de s'entretenir avec M. le Baron de Rodich. On sait que la condition indispensable de cette suspension d'armes, le ravitaillement de Nikchich, fut résolue, grâce à l'autorisation du passage des convois Turcs par le territoire Monténégrin. La quantité des vivres, la route à suivre pour leur transport, le lieu de l'entrevue projetée, la date de la trève (du 1 au 12 Avril) tout fut réglé d'avance avec le plus grand soin, le Prince poussant même la sollicitude jusqu'à faire prévenir les Turcs qu'ils devaient envoyer des bêtes de somme au port de débarquement, le pays ne pouvant en fournir qu'un très petit nombre.

On sait ce qui est résulté de l'entrevue de Soutorina: les chefs, après avoir reçu de M. le Gouverneur de la Dalmatie communication du projet de M. le Comte Andrassy et en avoir délibéré, remirent un Mémorandum où étaient énumérées diverses conditions, qu'ils désiraient voir ajoutées, pour compléter les réformes projetées et, surtout, en assurer la mise en pratique sérieuse. La justice de ces demandes, quant au fond, nous paraît évidente. Sans révoquer en doute les intentions réparatrices de la Porte, on doit reconnaître (tous les faits sans exception le prouvent) qu'elle est toujours impuissante à obtenir de ses agents qu'ils s'y conforment. Il est de toute nécessité que les réparations offertes soient stipulées et garanties de telle façon qu'il n'y ait pas moyen de les éluder ou même de les atténuer. Les demandes des insurgés, dans leur esprit, si non dans leur forme un peu trop péremptoire, nous semblent mériter, à ce point de vue, d'être prises en très sérieuse et favorable considération.

Les événements se chargèrent de prouver immédiatement combien les insurgés avaient raison dans leur défiance et à quel point les Chefs Ottomans avaient peu à cœur l'issue pacifique des négociations. Ceux-ci firent eux-mêmes, en négligeant de réunir les moyens de transport nécessaires, échouer le ravitaillement de Nikchich et, pendant que les chefs insurgés, confiants dans la suspension d'armes, qui comportait celle des mouvements de troupes, étaient en conférence à Soutorina, Mouktar Pacha profitait du répit qui lui était donné pour préparer un rétour offensif. Ayant, grâce à ce manque de foi, pû rassembler ses forces, il se mit en marche dès le 13 Avril, pour forcer le passage vers Nikchich. On sait ce qui en résulta: les Commandants Herzégoviniens, revenus à la hâte avec les hommes à leur portée, lui barièrent le chemin et, après une série d'engagements sanglants, le réjetèrent sur Gatsko, sa base d'opérations.

Suivant une tactique ordinaire chez certains généraux vaincus, le Général-en-chef Turc chercha alors à attribuer son échec à des causes imaginaires, surtout à la co-opération donnée aux insurgés par un corps nombreux de Monténégrins: il osa même articuler le chiffre fabuleux de 7,000, et accuser le Prince Nicolas d'avoir, lui même, envoyé ce renfort. Malgré l'improbabilité évidente d'une pareille assertion, il n'est peut être pas inutile de la démentir catégoriquement; c'est ce que le Prince a fait et fait encore sans hésitation.

Sans doute, il ne peut pas empêcher tous ses sujets de se dérober individuellement à ses ordres et de franchir en armes la frontière; mais il s'est assuré du nombre de ceux qui lui avaient désobéi (deux ou trois centuries) et a fait punir chacun d'eux selon toute la rigueur des lois.

Après cette suite de journées sanglantes, le Prince de Monténégro, ne perdant pas courage dans ses tentatives d'appeusement, s'associait de toutes ses forces aux tentatives nouvelles éssayées par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté l'Empereur d'Autriche. Pendant que ce dernier faisait entendre à Constantinople des conseils pacifiques, le Prince accueillait une adresse des insurgés, par laquelle ceux-ci remettaient leurs pouvoirs entre ses mains, pour négocier en leur lieu et place avec les Puissances et, éventuellement, avec la Porte elle-même. Il ne se dissimule pas la grave responsabilité qu'il assume, en établissant ainsi, tacitement il est vrai, sa solidarité avec ceux qui se mettent sous sa protection; mais, quels que soient les risques qui peuvent résulter de cet acte, l'humanité ne lui permettait pas de s'y soustraire. L'Europe, il en est sur, ne songera pas à l'en blâmer.

Durant plusieurs jours, les correspondances les plus actives furent échangées entre Vienne, Constantinople et Cettinje pour la reprise des négociations, dont une nouvelle trève devait être le prélude. Continuant à donner des preuves de son bon vouloir, le Prince de Monténégro offrait spontanément d'assurer le passage des vivres pour Nikchich, par une nouvelle route traversant le cœur de son territoire, et donnait

des ordres pour que ce transport se fît sans obstacle. La Sublime Porte, par l'intermédiaire de l'Ambassadeur d'Autriche, donnait les assurances les plus favorables, et Mouktar Pacha, de son côté, déclarait à M. le Gouverneur de la Dalmatie qu'il était prêt à conclure un armistice, pourvu que Nikchich fut approvisionné.

L'événement vient de prouver combien ces apparences étaient trompeuses. Il ne nous appartient pas de juger de l'impression qu'ont pu en recevoir les Puissances; mais nous ne craignons pas de dire tout haut que nous avons été joués et que ce qui est bien plus pénible, nous avons servi à tromper les Herzégoviniens, au moment même où ils venaient de nous confier la défense de leurs intérêts. Les pourparlers, qui les ont mis hors de leur garde, n'étaient qu'une feinte pour faciliter une seconde surprise et c'est, paraît-il, de Constantinople même que sont partis les ordres formels pour une nouvelle attaque. Celle-ci a réussi, en partie du moins, à atteindre le but principal, le ravitaillement de Nikchich. Mouktar Pacha est parvenu, en effet, le 28 Avril à couvrir l'entrée d'une portion de son convoi, les insurgés ne se trouvant pas en nombre pour l'en empêcher. Le lendemain et le surlendemain, il est vrai, renforcés par l'arrivée de plusieurs de leurs corps, ils lui firent éprouver des pertes considérables et lui fermèrent presque sa retraite sur Gatsko. Quelques milliers de morts et de blessés et l'approvisionnement d'une place pour quelques jours sont les seuls résultats d'une manœuvre diplomatique, dont nous laissons la qualification au jugement de l'Europe. Il n'y a encore aucune apparence que l'insurrection en soit affaiblie; les Herzégoviniens sont au contraire plus animés que jamais.

Cette lutte, sans cesse renaissante, place le Monténégro dans une position intolérable, que son Souverain soumet avec instances à l'urgente et sérieuse considération des Grandes Puissances.

Ses sujets, si habitués qu'ils le soient devenus à obéir aux lois, ne peuvent oublier que les Herzégoviniens sont leurs frères de race et de religion, qu'ils sont en fait une partie de la même nation, divisée par une ligne de démarcation purement politique. L'histoire récente des nations les plus policées montre que, avec les moyens d'action les mieux organisés, de grands Gouvernements peuvent se trouver impuissants à comprimer longtemps l'explosion du sentiment national surexcité. Pour sauver l'ordre, ils ont dû, bon-gré, mal-gré, céder à l'entrainement de l'opinion publique, et encore celle-ci n'a-t-elle été nulle part exaspérée par le spectacle d'horreurs et de dévastations comme celles dont le Monténégro est le témoin, pour ainsi dire oculaire.

Son territoire est rempli de familles réfugiées, dont les demeures ont été détruites et les moyens d'existence anéantis. Il faut les avoir vues pour se figurer un état de misère pareil. La charité de l'Europe et la générosité des Empereurs d'Autriche et de Russie ont fortement contribué à l'entretien de ces malheureux, mais la plus forte part de cette œuvre quotidienne n'en tombe pas moins à la charge du Monténégro. Ce peuple, petit et pauvre, partage ce qu'il a avec des exilés, dont le nombre, déjà égal à peu près à la moitié du sien, semble augmenter chaque jour. Ce qu'il fait, il le fait de grand cœur et sans regret; mais le moment approche où il ne pourra matériellement plus rien faire; il ne lui restera rien à partager.

La configuration même de nos frontières mal définies et irrégulières est une source inévitable de conflits, dont on ne doit pas atténuer la gravité possible dans les circonstances actuelles.

Enfin, les villages Chrétiens, dans les districts Herzégoviniens de Piva, Baniani, Gatsko et Zubzi, que leur situation met en dehors de la zone occupée par les troupes Turques, abritent une population de familles réfugiées, comme celle qui s'est enfuie chez nous, dénuée de tout comme celle-ci et entretenue, tant bien que mal, par les mêmes ressources. Les mouvements en avant de l'armée Ottomane menacent ces localités; or l'occupation par elle signifie simplement le pillage, l'incendie et le massacre, surtout depuis qu'elle a été renforcée d'Arabes et de Bachi-bozouks, dont la réputation n'est pas à faire au point de vue de l'indicipline et de la férocité. Tout recemment, par exemple, les irréguliers Albanais se sont détournés de leur route pour saccager et brûler le village Chrétien de Golia. L'Europe n'attend certainement pas de nous que nous laissions commettre de tels ravages à nos portes mêmes, sans chercher à les empêcher.

Ce sont là seulement quelques uns des traits de la situation, telle qu'elle se présente du côté de l'Herzégovine; ils sont certes suffisants pour inspirer les plus sérieuses appréhensions. Ils ne représentent pourtant qu'une partie des dangers qui menacent la paix.

Pendant l'intervalle de vaines négociations, qui a séparé les deux opérations de Mouktar Pacha, le bruit se répandit tout-à-coup que la Porte, irritée par les allégations de ce dernier, allait déclarer la guerre au Monténégro. Interpellée à ce sujet par

plusieurs Puissances et mise en présence de nos dénégations formelles, elle déclara qu'elle n'avait pas cette intention; mais, dans ses communications à quelques Ambassadeurs, au sujet de l'armistice projeté alors, elle ne se fit pas faute de parler un langage menaçant pour nous. Si nous ne savions pas déjà parfaitement quelles dispositions hostiles à notre égard règnent dans certaines regions du pouvoir à Constantinople, ce qui se passe sur territoire Turc, tout autour de nous, suffirait pour que nous nous sentissions menacés.

Tandis que le Général-en-chef en Herzégovine et ses officiers ne font pas mystère de leurs intentions contre nous, nous voyons s'accumuler sur notre frontière méridionale les préparatifs d'une action aggressive. Les forces Turques en Albanie s'augmentent considérablement, et font des mouvements significatifs; la flotille armée sur le Lac de Scutari a été renforcée et pousse ses reconnaissances jusque dans nos eaux; la côte d'Antivari, par laquelle se fait le commerce de quelques uns de nos districts les plus prospères, est strictement bloquée par les croiseurs Ottomans, sous prétexte de contrebande d'armes; enfin, ce qui est extrêmement grave pour nous, la sortie des grains pour le Monténégro a été prohibée, et même, depuis quelque temps, le passage des personnes a été interdit sur la frontière, dans un sens et dans l'autre.

A ces indices d'une mauvaise intention évidente, dont le dernier est presque une mesure de guerre, viennent se joindre des faits qui montrent que les Gouverneurs Turcs, privés par notre modération de motifs de querelle, cherchent, par leurs vexations, à faire éclater des troubles dans les cantons limitrophes des notres, dans l'espoir d'y impliquer nos ressortissants et nous-mêmes ensuite.

La frontière Albanaise du Monténégro est celle par laquelle, en mainte occasion, il a été envahi par les armées de son puissant voisin, même sans déclaration de guerre préalable. Sa configuration même, qui fait faire aux terres du Sultan une saillie, protégée par deux forteresses, dans la partie la plus accessible du pays, est, à elle seule, une cause permanente de danger. On ne sera donc pas étonné que tout ce qui se prépare de ce côté soit pour nous l'objet d'une vigilance défiante.

Le peuple Monténégrin, après avoir été atteint dans les sources de sa prospérité par les charges écrasantes qui pesent sur lui, après avoir souffert dans ses sentiments les plus naturels et les plus chers par les calamités qui accablent ses frères de race et de foi, après avoir été dénoncé à l'Europe par des calomnies gratuites, peut se voir d'un moment à l'autre forcé à une lutte désespérée pour son existence même. Avant que cette crise suprême vienne l'éprouver, c'est le devoir de son Prince de la conjurer, s'il le peut, en faisiant appel aux Puissances Chrétiennes.

Il vient donc les prier instamment de s'entendre pour faire de la situation qu'il leur expose l'objet de déliberations communes, plutôt que de laisser la guerre continuer ses ravages, qui ne résolvent aucune question, ni dans le présent, ni dans l'avenir. Dans le but d'invoquer leur intervention, il s'adresse à elles, bien convaincu qu'elles ne resteront pas insensibles aux misères et aux dangers de populations entières. Elles voudront certainement combiner leurs efforts, pour mettre un terme à des luttes séculaires, sans cesse renaissantes et toujours plus acharnées.

Mais, pendant qu'elles prépareront leur entente, il est urgent de prendre certaines mesures préliminaires, non seulement pour arrêter une inutile effusion de sang, mais pour empêcher les troubles de gagner du terrain dans la Péninsule du Balkan.

En ce qui concerne la guerre d'Herzégovine, il faudrait qu'il fût conclu une suspension d'armes d'une longueur suffisante, pendant laquelle il serait interdit aux Turcs de recevoir aucuns renforts, aux insurgés de se recruter d'adhérents du dehors, aux deux partis de faire d'autres mouvements militaires que ceux de concentration sur des points à désigner. Les Turcs évacueraient les localités en dehors de celles assignées pour leurs cantonnements et les chefs Herzégoviniens s'engageraient à faire respecter les personnes et les propriétés des sujets Mahométans, le Prince de Monténégro se portant garant de cet engagement. Il propose que la zone neutre, mise ainsi sous sa garantie, se compose des districts de Zoubzi, Baniani, Nikchich, Piva, et Rolachine, avec la partie orientale de ceux de Gatsko et de Trebigné.

En ce qui concerne la sûreté du Monténégro du côté du sud, il serait stipulé que la Turquie ne pourrait réunir en Albanie, en général, et dans les places frontières, en particulier, des forces supérieures aux garnisons ordinaires, la flotille sur le Lac de Scutari serait remise sur le pied de paix, le blocus d'Antivari serait levé, et la libre circulation des personnes et des marchandises rétablie sur la frontière.

Les Puissances comprennent certainement l'importance de stipuler une suspension d'armes, mais il n'est pas superflu de leur signaler l'urgence extrême d'imposer à la Porte les conditions qui précèdent. S'il lui est permis de suivre sa tactique constante, elle ne manquera pas d'amuser l'Europe par des déclarations pacifiques et des pour-

parlers. Pendant ce temps, elle concentrera des forces sur tous les points, amènera de ses provinces reculées des hordes d'irréguliers, fera occuper toutes les positions stratégiques et, une fois prête, elle jettera le masque et lancera ses bandes, non seulement sur ses sujets insurgés, mais sur tous les Chrétiens et, surtout, sur le Monténégro. Celui-ci se prépare à se défendre énergiquement, mais il est faible et il se trouvera réduit aux expédients les plus désespérés et les plus dangereux pour les pays voisins, par ce que son Prince, cédant aux désirs des Puissances, a renoncé à profiter à temps opportun de la faiblesse de son ennemie.

Il n'y a pas d'illusion à se faire. Sa Majesté le Sultan ne demande pas mieux, sans doute, que de faire justice égale à tous ses sujets, mais l'a-t-il jamais pu et le pourra-t-il jamais ? La force des choses ne l'a-t-elle pas toujours emporté, et ne l'emportera-t-elle pas toujours sur ses bonnes intentions, tant que celles-ci ne seront pas soutenues par la volonté formelle de l'Europe réunie ? La position morale et matérielle de son Empire lui permet-elle d'exercer l'action régulière d'un Souverain sur son administration, son armée et ses correligionnaires ? Ses sujets appartenant à d'autres races sont perpetuellement, les uns en révolte ouverte, les autres contenus par la force seules, attendant le moment de secouer le joug. L'exemple et le voisinage de peuples affranchis sont une excitation inévitable à la rebellion. Le Gouvernement Turc ne peut compter que sur la population Musulmane et, encore, ne peut-il mettre celle-ci en mouvement qu'en faisant appel à son fanatisme. Ses finances ruinées le mettent hors d'état de payer la solde de ses troupes régulières, qui, pour subsister, sont réduits au pillage ; faute de pouvoir les renforcer de bataillons disciplinés, il doit faire entrer en ligne des levées d'irréguliers sans discipline et sans miséricorde. Ses agents de tous degrés, mêmes ceux qui voudraient être justes, ne peuvent vivre que d'exactions. Ses conseillers les plus élevés, sans cesse brisés pour n'avoir pas qui accomplir l'impossible, ne savent jamais combien de jours ils auront pour exécuter leurs plans les mieux combinés, et les promesses faites par les uns sont chaque jour retirées par les autres.

Dans la dislocation générale, la nation Turque, malgré l'admirable patience qui la caractérise, réduite au désespoir, ne peut manquer de faire appel à son courage pour tirer, autant qu'elle le pourra, une vengeance atroce de ses rivaux, avant d'accepter la ruine de sa domination.

La crise qui se prépare, si l'on ne saisit pas ce dernier moment pour le conjurer, ne pourra pas être circonscrite ; toute la Péninsule du Balkan y sera envelopée. Il ne nous appartient pas de traiter ce qui concerne la Bosnie, la Serbie, et la Bulgarie ; mais nous ne pouvons fermer les yeux à l'évidente connexité de tout ce qui se passe dans la Turquie d'Europe. Les Musulmans, de leur côté, ne feront pas de distinctions ; tous les Chrétiens, quelles que soient leur race et leur église, sont fatalement compris dans le nombre des ennemis à immoler. Nous savons parfaitement, et tout le monde doit le savoir avec nous, que, comme centre séculaire d'indépendance, notre petit Etat est, tout particulièrement, désigné à des vengeances implacables ; aussi ne trouvera-t-on pas extraordinaire que, tout en nous préparant de notre mieux à défendre notre existence, nous prenions, malgré la modeste place que nous occupons sur la carte, l'initiative d'un appel à l'Europe.

Nous n'avons pas la prétention d'indiquer quel mode de négociations, Congrès, Conférences, ou correspondances entre les Gouvernements, convient le mieux pour le but à atteindre, et encore moins celle de mettre sur le tapis des questions qui n'intéressent pas notre pays seul ou les Provinces qui l'entourent. Mais nous prions instamment les Puissances de ne pas perdre de vue que la Sublime Porte ne veut pas, ne peut pas, et même au point de vue Musulman, ne doit pas avoir des projets sérieux de réparation et de justice à l'égard de ses sujets Chrétiens ; que, eut-elle ces projets, elle est impuissante pour les exécuter ; que la crise suprême et inévitable éclatera, d'elle-même et par la force des choses, malgré les notes diplomatiques et les belles promesses du Divan.

L'Europe seule, agissant de concert, avec promptitude et détermination, peut encore, en interposant sa volonté, empêcher les malheurs d'une guerre d'extermination.

Le Prince de Monténégro,
(Signé) NICOLAS.

Cettigné, le $\frac{8 \text{ Mai}}{26 \text{ Avril}}$ 1876.

(Translation.)

FOR years the Province of Herzegovina has been the theatre of continual disorders, and the position of the Christian majority of the population has been rendered intolerable. The reforms and guarantees accorded time after time by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan with a good faith, which we are far from suspecting, have not attained their end, because, in this, as unfortunately in everything else, the authorities charged to apply them have set themselves to annul their effect, in which they have been actively aided by the Mahomedan minority.

This minority, in concert with the civil and judicial magistrates, as well as with the military leaders, has never failed, after the publication with a great flourish of the Decrees of the Porte, to make them a dead letter, even before their application had been attempted. The vexations and refusals of justice, in great as in small matters, continued as in the past, and the rayah had, no more than formerly, an hour of security for himself, his family, and his goods. Such a situation would exasperate the most gentle populations; much less, then, could unlimited patience be expected from a people strangers to all civilizing influences, and whose masters themselves set the example of contempt of the laws. Life itself had become insupportable; when a people is reduced to this we know the result.

A striking proof of the despair to which the Herzegovinians were reduced is the perfect brotherhood to which daily sufferings have led two hostile religions. To those who know the hatred which everywhere in the east divides the Roman Catholics and the Orthodox Greek Church, this fact speaks for itself. At this hour Catholic priests and Greek popes fight together, mixed up in the same ranks.

During the year 1874, the misery of the Christians having reached its height, there were in various parts of the province movements precursory to a rising, to which the authorities responded by doubling their rigour, and by the summary arrest of a certain number of notables. Others, escaping pursuit, took refuge in Montenegro, asking the Prince to give them an asylum, and even to help them to shake off the yoke.

Prince Nicholas, faithful to international laws, refused to listen to this last request; but, well knowing the state of things which had necessitated the flight of his guests, he did his utmost to make possible their return in safety to their homes. At the same time he made known to the Powers, by a Memorial dated April, 1875, the situation in which the neighbouring territories were placed.

Then, as ever, when there was question of a good action, he had the good fortune to obtain the powerful assistance of the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria, which was ready to make itself at Constantinople the medium for communicating His Highness's wishes. Thanks to this support the Porte granted an amnesty for the acts of agitation and for the illegal departure of the notables. Besides this, she instituted a Commission of officials, charged to receive and record the claims of the Herzegovinians. As soon as the emigrants had returned and the Commission was installed, there happened, what always has happened in Turkey since the Sultans have undertaken reforms, the new Decrees were left unexecuted like the preceding ones, and the Delegates did nothing but commence, formally, the inquiry with which they were charged. The native Mussulmans, irritated, redoubled their acts of violence and molestation under the eyes of the Commission, which was either powerless or their accomplice; and the Christians, at the end of their patience, listened only to the voice of despair.

It was thus that the present insurrection broke out, without any preliminary arrangement or preparation.

It is quite useless to relate the history of this war of detail, of surprises, of small engagements, which has only been signalized by the animosity of the two parties and by the vengeance exercised without distinction on entire districts, by the Turks.

Since the commencement of this crisis the Christian Powers, anxious as they should be to circumscribe the incendiary focus, in order to prevent it from becoming by degrees a general conflagration, addressed themselves to the Prince of Montenegro, whose action might decide or arrest the gravest complications. Entering without hesitation into their views and moved by the same sentiments of order and peace, the Prince gave his promise to observe neutrality, and he is happy to be able to say that he has kept this engagement. He even wishes it to be remarked, by the way, that he has given a striking proof at the same time of his fidelity to his engagements and of

his power over his people, by preventing them from throwing themselves blindly into the struggle, as they would have done formerly. This fact shows, as it is not useless to observe, what progress the country has made in the path of order and respect for the laws, during the last quarter of a century.

Passing by in silence the incidents of the war, we may come to the pacific attempt made with common accord by the Great Powers, and summed up in the well-known note of his Excellency Count Andrassy. The principles laid down in this note having been accepted by the Sublime Porte, a special Commission was charged by her to prepare the application of it. What those Commissioners did is expressed by one single word—nothing.

While these delegates continued at Mostar the negative policy pursued by all their predecessors, Austria, taking seriously her mission of peace, ordered her Governor-General in Dalmatia, Baron Rodich, to place himself in communication with the insurgents and to obtain from them the acceptance of the reform proposed by Count Andrassy. The assistance of the Prince of Montenegro was asked for this, and given without reserve. Thanks to his active interposition and to that of Austria, an armistice of twelve days was concluded to give the leaders time to communicate with Baron Rodich. It is known that the indispensable condition of this suspension of arms, the revictualling of Nichsich was resolved upon, thanks to the authorisation of the passage of the Turkish convoys through Montenegrin territory. The quantity of the provisions, the road to be followed for their transport, the site of the projected interview, the date of the truce (from the 1st to the 12th April), all was arranged beforehand with the greatest care, the Prince pushing his solicitude even to the point of apprizing the Turks that they should send beasts of burden to the port of disembarkation, the country only being able to furnish a very small number of them.

It is known what was the result of the interview of Sutorina. The chiefs after receiving from the Governor of Dalmatia communication of the project of Count Andrassy, and having deliberated on it, handed in a memorandum in which were enumerated various conditions which they desired to see added to complete the projected reforms, and, above all, to insure their being seriously executed. The justice of these demands, as regards the principle, seems to us clear. Without questioning the reforming intentions of the Porte, it must be recognized (all the facts, without exception, prove it) that she is always powerless to obtain from her agents conformity to them. It is most necessary that the reforms offered should be stipulated and guaranteed in such a way that there should be no means of evading them, or even of diminishing them. The demands of the insurgents which, in their spirit, if not in their form, are a little too peremptory, deserve, from this point of view, to be taken into most serious and favourable consideration.

Events took upon themselves to prove immediately to what extent the insurgents were right in their mistrust, and how little the Ottoman Chiefs cared for the pacific issue of the negotiations. These latter, in neglecting to assemble the necessary means of transport, were themselves the causes of the failure of the revictualling of Nichsich, and while the insurgent Chiefs, confiding in the suspension of arms, which comprised that of the movement of the troops, were in conference at Sutorina, Moukhtar Pasha profited by the respite which was given to him to prepare an offensive return. Thanks to this breach of faith, having been able to re-assemble his forces, he started on his march on the 13th April to force the passage towards Nichsich. The result is known. The Herzegovina Commanders having returned in haste with the men at hand, barred his way, and after a series of bloody engagements, drove him back on Gatzko, his basis of operations.

Following the ordinary tactics of certain vanquished Generals, the Turkish General in command then sought to attribute his check to imaginary causes—above all, to the co-operation given to the insurgents by a numerous body of Montenegrins. He even dared to name the fabulous number of 7,000, and to accuse Prince Nicholas of having himself sent this reinforcement. In spite of the evident improbability of such an assertion, it is not perhaps useless to deny it categorically; this is what the Prince has done and still does without hesitation.

Doubtless he cannot prevent all his subjects from individually evading his orders, and crossing the frontier in arms, but he has assured himself of the number of those who have disobeyed him (two or three hundred) and punished each of them with the utmost rigour of the law.

After this succession of bloody days, the Prince of Montenegro, not losing courage in his attempts at pacification, associated himself with all his strength to the new

attempts made by the Government of His Majesty the Emperor of Austria. While the latter was giving peaceful counsels at Constantinople, the Prince received an address from the insurgents by which they placed their powers in his hands, to negotiate in their room and place with the Powers, and eventually with the Porte itself. He does not hide from himself the grave responsibility which he assumes in thus establishing, tacitly, it is true, his solidarity with those who place themselves under his protection; but whatever may be the risks which may result from this act, humanity did not permit him to reject it. Europe, he is sure, will not dream of blaming him for it.

During several days the most active correspondence was exchanged between Vienna, Constantinople, and Cettigné, respecting the resumption of the negotiations, of which a new truce was to be the prelude. Continuing to give proofs of his good will, the Prince of Montenegro offered spontaneously to insure the passage of the provisions for Nichsich, by a new route, traversing the heart of his territory, and gave orders that this transport should take place without obstacle. The Sublime Porte, through the Austrian Ambassador, gave the most favourable assurances, and Moukhtar Pasha on his side, declared to the Governor of Dalmatia that he was ready to conclude an armistice, provided that Nichsich was provisioned.

The event has proved how deceitful were these appearances. It is not in our province to judge of the impression which it has produced on the Powers; but we do not fear to say aloud that we have been trifled with, and what is much more painful, that we have helped in deceiving the Herzegovinians, at the very time that they had confided to us the defence of their interests. The discussion which put them off their guard were only a feint to facilitate a second surprise; and, it appears, it was from Constantinople itself that the formal orders went for a new attack. This last succeeded at least in part, in attaining its principal object, the revictualling of Nichsich. Moukhtar Pasha succeeded, in fact, on the 28th of April, in covering the entry of a portion of his convoy, the insurgents not finding themselves sufficiently numerous to prevent it. The following day, and the day after, it is true, being reinforced by the arrival of several of their corps, they made him suffer considerable losses, and nearly cut off his retreat on Gatzko. Some thousands of dead and wounded, and the provisions of a place for a few days, are the only results of a diplomatic manœuvre, the characterizing of which we leave to the judgment of Europe. There is as yet no appearance that the insurrection is enfeebled by it; the Herzegovinians are, on the contrary, more animated than ever.

This struggle, perpetually renewed, places Montenegro in an intolerable position, which its Sovereign submits pressingly to the urgent and serious consideration of the Great Powers.

His subjects, habituated as they are to obey the laws, cannot forget that the Herzegovinians are their brothers in race and religion; that they are, in fact, a part of the same nation, divided by a line of demarcation merely political. The recent history of the most civilized nations shows that with the best organized means of action great Governments may find themselves powerless long to restrain the explosion of over-excited national sentiment. To preserve order they have been obliged, willingly or unwillingly, to yield to the current of public opinion, and yet such opinion has been nowhere exasperated by the spectacle of horrors and devastations such as those of which Montenegro is, so to say, the ocular witness.

Her territory is full of refugee families whose dwellings have been destroyed, and whose means of living have been annihilated. Such a state of misery must have been seen to be imagined. The charity of Europe and the generosity of the Emperors of Austria and Russia have powerfully contributed to the maintenance of these unfortunate beings, but the heaviest part of this daily work none the less falls to the charge of Montenegro. This people, small and poor, shares what it has with the exiles, whose number, already nearly equal to half its own, seems to increase every day. What it does, it does heartily and without regret; but the moment approaches when it will be materially incapable of doing anything; it will have nothing left to share.

The very configuration of our frontiers, badly defined and irregular, is an inevitable source of conflicts, the possible gravity of which, under present circumstances, cannot be ignored.

Again, the Christian villages in the Herzegovinian districts of Piva, Baniani, Gatzko, and Zubci, whose situation places them outside the zone occupied by the Turkish troops, shelter a population of refugee families like that which has fled to us, equally deprived of all and maintained more or less well by the same resources. The movements in advance of the Ottoman army menace these localities; now, occupation

by it simply means pillage, fire, and massacre, above all since it has been reinforced by Arabs and Bashi-Bazouks, whose reputation for want of discipline and for ferocity is nothing new. Quite recently, for example, the Albanian irregulars turned out of their road to sack and fire the Christian village of Golia. Europe does not certainly expect us to allow such ravages to be committed at our very gates without trying to prevent them.

These are only a few of the points of the situation as it presents itself from the Herzegovinian side; they are certainly sufficient to inspire the most serious apprehensions. They only represent, however, a part of the dangers which menace peace.

During the interval of vain negotiations which separated the two operations of Moukhtar Pasha the report spread itself suddenly that the Porte, irritated by his allegations, was going to declare war against Montenegro. Questioned on this subject by several Powers, and put in face of our formal denials, she declared that she had no such intention; but in her communication with certain Ambassadors on the subject of the armistice then projected she did not fail to make use of language menacing to us.

If we did not perfectly know already what hostile dispositions with regard to us reign in certain powerful regions at Constantinople, what is happening on Turkish territory all around us would suffice for us to feel ourselves menaced.

While the General in command in Herzegovina and his officers make no mystery of their intentions against us, we see accumulating on our southern frontier the preparation for aggressive actions. The Turkish forces in Albania are being considerably augmented, and are making significant movements. The armed flotilla on the Lake of Scutari has been reinforced, and is pushing reconnaissances up to our waters; the coast of Antivari, through which the commerce of some of our most prosperous districts is carried on, is strictly blocked by Ottoman cruizers, under pretext of contraband of arms; in short, and this is extremely grave for us, the exit of grain for Montenegro has been prohibited, and even since some time the passage of individuals over the frontier, for one cause and another, has been forbidden.

To these indications of an evident bad intention, of which the last is nearly a war measure, facts have just been added which show that the Turkish Governors, deprived by our moderation of motives of quarrel, are seeking by their vexations to cause troubles to break out in the districts bordering on ours, in the hope of implicating in them our outgoing subjects, and eventually ourselves.

The Albanian frontier of Montenegro is the one by which it has frequently been invaded by the armies of its powerful neighbour, even without a preliminary declaration of war. Its very configuration, which projects into the Sultan's territory, protected by two fortresses in the most accessible part of the country, is in itself a permanent source of danger. It will surprise no one then if we regard all preparations from this quarter with a distrustful watchfulness.

The Montenegrin people after having been attacked in the foundation of their prosperity by the crushing burdens which weigh upon them, after having suffered in their most natural and dearest feelings by the calamities which are overwhelming their brothers in race and in religion, after having been denounced to Europe by gratuitous calumnies, may find themselves at any moment forced into a desperate struggle for very existence. Before they are tried by this supreme crisis it is the duty of their Prince to avert it, if it be possible, by an appeal to the Christian Powers.

He earnestly entreats them, then, to come to an agreement to take under their common consideration the state of affairs he lays before them, rather than allow the war to continue its ravages, which settle no question either now or hereafter. With the object of invoking their intervention he addresses himself to them, firmly convinced that they will not remain insensible to the miseries and dangers of entire populations. They will certainly unite their efforts to stop normal struggles, perpetually reviving, and each time with greater violence.

But whilst they are preparing their agreement it is urgent to take certain preliminary measures, not only to arrest a useless effusion of blood, but to prevent the troubles spreading in the Balkan Peninsula.

As regards the war in Herzegovina, a sufficiently long suspension of arms ought to be concluded, during which the Turks should be forbidden to receive any reinforcements, and the insurgents to recruit themselves from foreign adherents, while neither party should be allowed to make any military movements except for concentration on points to be designated. The Turks should evacuate all localities except those assigned to them as cantonments, and the Herzegovinian chiefs should

undertake to cause the persons and goods of Mahomedan subjects to be respected, the Prince of Montenegro guaranteeing this engagement. He proposes that the neutral zone, placed thus under his guarantee, should comprise the districts of Zoubzi, Baniani, Nichsich, Piva, and Rolachine, with the eastern portion of Gatchko and Trebinje.

To provide for the safety of Montenegro on its southern frontier it should be stipulated that Turkey should not be allowed to collect in Albania in general, and in the frontier places in particular, forces in excess of the ordinary garrisons, the flotilla on the Lake of Scutari should be replaced on a peace footing, the blockade of Antivari should be raised, and the free circulation of individuals and goods be re-established on the frontier.

The Powers certainly understand the importance of the stipulation for a suspension of arms, but it is not superfluous to point out to them the extreme urgency of imposing the preceding conditions upon the Porte. If she is allowed to pursue her habitual tactics she will not fail to amuse Europe by pacific declarations and discussions. In the meantime she will concentrate her forces at every point; will gather from her distant provinces irregular hordes; will occupy all the strategic positions; and, once ready, will throw off the mask and launch her bands, not merely on her insurgent subjects, but on all the Christians, and especially on Montenegro. The latter is preparing for an energetic defence, but is weak, and will find itself reduced to expedients most desperate and dangerous for its neighbours, because its Prince, yielding to the desire of the Powers, has omitted to profit in season by the weakness of his enemy.

Self-deception is impossible. His Majesty the Sultan asks doubtless nothing better than to do equal justice to all his subjects, but has he ever been able or will he ever be in a position to do so? Has not the force of circumstances always been too strong for him, and will it not always overcome his good intentions, as long as the latter are not sustained by the formal will of united Europe? Does the moral or material condition of his Empire permit him to exert the regular influence of a Sovereign upon his administration, his army, and his co-religionists? His subjects belonging to different races are perpetually, some in open revolt, others restrained by force only, waiting the moment to shake off the yoke. The example and proximity of freed peoples are an inevitable inducement to rebellion. The Turkish Government can only count on the Mussulman population, and, moreover, can only arouse these by an appeal to their fanaticism. Its ruined finances render it incapable of paying its regular troops, who are reduced to plunder for their subsistence; in consequence of its inability to reinforce them with disciplined battalions it is compelled to enlist irregular levies undisciplined and merciless. Its agents of all ranks, even those who would wish to be just, can only live by extortions. Its highest Counsellors, constantly dismissed for not accomplishing the impossible, never know how many days they will be allowed to carry out their best laid schemes, and the promises made by one are daily retracted by another.

In the general break-up, the Turkish nation, in spite of the admirable patience which characterizes it, driven to despair, cannot fail to call upon its courage to inflict, to the utmost of its ability, a terrible vengeance upon its rivals, before accepting the ruin of its power.

The crisis which is impending, if the last moment for averting it be not seized upon, cannot be circumscribed; the whole peninsula of the Balkan will be enveloped in it. It is no business of ours to deal with what concerns Bosnia, Servia, and Bulgaria; but we cannot be blind to the evident connection of all that is going on in European Turkey. The Mussulmans on their side will make no distinctions; all Christians, whatever their nationality or religion, are fatally included in the number of enemies to be destroyed. We know perfectly well, and the whole world ought to know with us, that as the normal centre of independence, our little State is specially designed for implacable vengeance; also, no one will be surprised that, whilst preparing to the best of our ability to defend our existence, we should take, in spite of the humble position we occupy on the map, the initiative of an appeal to Europe.

We do not pretend to point out what form of negotiations, congresses, conferences, or correspondence between the Governments may be best suited to attain the desired object, and still less to bring forward questions which do not affect our country alone, or the provinces that surround it. But we earnestly intreat the Powers not to lose sight of the fact that the Porte will not, cannot, and indeed, from the Mussulman point of view, ought not to entertain serious projects of reform and justice towards its Christian subjects; that, had she such projects, she is powerless to execute them;

that the supreme, and inevitable crisis will burst forth of itself by the force of circumstances, in spite of diplomatic notes and fine promises of the Divan.

Europe alone by acting in concert with promptitude and determination can still, by interposing her will, prevent the horrors of a war of extermination.

The Prince of Montenegro,
(Signed) NICOLAS.

Cettigné, April 26 / May 8, 1876.

No. 275.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the Memorandum of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch of the 13th instant, containing the proposals of the Governments of Austria, Germany, and Russia for the pacification of the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

These proposals had been agreed upon by Count Andrassy, Prince Bismarck, and Prince Gortchakow at a meeting at Berlin, and your Excellency was requested to communicate them to Her Majesty's Government with the hope that Her Majesty's Government would accede to them and express their opinion at once upon the telegraphic summary furnished by your Excellency.

I informed your Excellency on the 15th instant that it would be necessary for me to consult my colleagues, and that I could not give any reply until after the proposals of the three Governments had been considered by the Cabinet.

I have now to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government regret to find themselves unable to co-operate in the policy which the three Governments have invited them to pursue. Her Majesty's Government appreciate the advantage of concerted action by the Powers in all that relates to the questions arising out of the insurrection, but they cannot consent to join in proposals, which they do not conscientiously believe likely to effect the pacification which all the Powers desire to see attained.

The proposals contained in the Memorandum are directed to pressing upon the Porte the establishment of an armistice for two months, with a view to direct negotiations between the Porte and the delegates of the insurgents on the basis of the wishes which the latter have expressed, and which have been thought fit to serve as points of departure for discussion.

In the first place, it appears to Her Majesty's Government that they would not be justified in insisting upon the Porte consenting to an armistice without knowing whether the military situation admitted of its being established without prejudice to the Turkish Government, and without rendering necessary the exercise of greater efforts on the renewal of the campaign, and a consequent prolongation of the struggle. Moreover, the faithful observance of the armistice by both sides would have to be secured, since the Porte could not well be called upon to suspend operations against the insurgents while the insurrection was receiving support from Servia and Montenegro, and the insurgents strengthening their position and recruiting their forces and obtaining arms and supplies. The mere fact of the insurrection remaining unsuppressed would be likely to give it additional vitality, and the result of an armistice might, therefore, be to lead to a rejection of any demands which the Porte might fairly be expected to concede, and thus hinder rather than advance the prospects of pacification.

At the same time Her Majesty's Government would not advise the Porte against acceding to an armistice should the Turkish Government consider that the political and military position admitted of it, and its result would be likely to be beneficial, although in view of the objections which I have mentioned, and others of a similar character which will readily occur to your Excellency, Her Majesty's Government do not feel justified in recommending it to the Porte, still less in insisting upon its acceptance.

In my despatch of the 15th instant I have informed your Excellency of some of the objections which I stated to Count Münster had occurred to me in regard to the five points which were proposed as a basis for negotiation between the Porte and the insurgents; a further consideration of the proposals has not led to any modification of the opinion I then expressed.

Her Majesty's Government doubt whether the Porte has the means of providing for

the reconstruction of the houses and churches of the insurgents or of finding subsistence for the returning refugees. If Her Majesty's Government are rightly informed, the cost would be very heavy, and the Porte has not the requisite funds at its disposal.

The distribution of relief by such a Commission as is contemplated would be little better than a system of indiscriminate almsgiving. It would probably be beyond the power of the Porte to adopt, and if adopted, would prove utterly demoralizing to any country.

Her Majesty's Government do not mean to say that the Porte would not be wise in affording any practicable facilities and inducements for the return of the population who have quitted, or been driven from, their homes owing to the insurrection, but they do not consider that they can urge upon the Porte to undertake engagements the observance of which would be beyond its power.

The concentration of the Turkish troops in certain places would be delivering up the whole country to anarchy, particularly when the insurgents are to retain their arms.

The "Consular supervision" would reduce the authority of the Sultan to nullity; and, without force to support it, supervision would be impossible.

Even if there were any prospect of the Porte being willing and able to come to an arrangement with the insurgents on the basis proposed, which Her Majesty's Government scarcely believe possible, the intimation with which the Memorandum closes would render any such negotiation almost certainly abortive, for it could not be supposed that the insurgents would accept any terms of pacification from the Porte in face of the declaration that if the insurrection continued after the armistice the Powers would intervene further.

Regarded in this light the proposal of an armistice seems to Her Majesty's Government to be illusory.

There is another point not referred to in your Excellency's telegraphic summary, but to which it is necessary for me to advert, viz., the proposal in the third paragraph of the Memorandum that the Powers should agree upon the measures to be taken by their respective naval forces for the safety of foreigners and of the Christian inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire at Salonica and other places where it might be threatened.

Her Majesty's Government have already desired that Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure" should proceed to Salonica, and that Admiral Drummond, with three other vessels of war, should go to Besika Bay, where he will be in ready communication with Her Majesty's Embassy, and an additional vessel of small size has been placed in attendance at Constantinople at Sir H. Elliot's request.

They have heard that other Powers have reinforced their squadrons in Turkish waters, and that there is a considerable naval force assembled at Salonica.

Her Majesty's Government do not doubt that the measures thus taken will have had a good effect in affording confidence to the subjects of Great Britain and other Powers at Salonica and elsewhere; and they will readily give instructions to Admiral Drummond and the Captains of Her Majesty's ships under his orders, to give any protection and assistance which may be necessary for the preservation of the lives and properties of foreign subjects should they unhappily be in immediate danger, either in concert with the commanding officers of the ships of the other Powers, or, in the absence of any such ships, on their own responsibility. Her Majesty's Government do not, however, at present apprehend any necessity for such measures, and they are of opinion that care should be taken that the naval forces of foreign Powers are not employed in any manner contrary to the Treaty rights of the Porte or subversive of the Sultan's authority.

Your Excellency is authorized to read this despatch to Prince Bismarck, and to leave a copy with his Excellency, should he desire it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 276.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th instant, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Lord Odo Russell,† informing him of the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the Memorandum containing the proposals of the Austrian, German, and Russian Governments for the pacification of the Turkish insurgent districts.

I have to request your Excellency to read this despatch to the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to give him a copy of it should he desire it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 277.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.‡

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1876.

IN the despatch which I have addressed to your Excellency on the 19th instant, I have stated that Her Majesty's Government are unable to give their assent to the proposals which the three Governments desire should be urged upon the Porte, and have mentioned the reasons which have induced Her Majesty's Government to refrain from doing so.

Those proposals take the shape of certain defined points for negotiation between the Porte and the insurgents, coupled with an armistice and an intimation of an intention to take further measures should the negotiation be unsuccessful. None of these proposals had previously been discussed with Her Majesty's Government, or, so far as they are aware, with the other Powers signataries of the Treaty of Paris; and the inconvenience has consequently arisen again, as in the case of Count Andrassy's note, of a set of Articles being submitted for the acceptance of Great Britain without any opportunity having been afforded for a preliminary consideration of their details by Her Majesty's Government, or for the possible objections of Her Majesty's Government to be considered by the three Governments concerned.

Her Majesty's Government attach little importance to forms in matters of this kind, and would have readily accepted the present proposals had they appeared to them to afford a feasible plan for the pacification of the insurgent districts; but they cannot accept, for the sake of the mere appearance of concert, a scheme in the preparation of which they have not been consulted, and which they do not believe calculated to effect the object with which they are informed it has been framed.

I leave it to your Excellency's discretion how far it may be desirable that you should indicate the views of Her Majesty's Government in this respect in your communications with the German Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 278.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.§

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 19, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of this day's date, inclosing a copy of the despatch which I have addressed to Lord Odo Russell, containing the answer of Her Majesty's Government to the proposals of the three Powers for the pacification of the Turkish insurgent districts, I have to point out to your Excellency that Her Majesty's

* Similar instructions were addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris Vienna, Constantinople, and Rome.

† No. 275.

‡ Similar instructions were addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Vienna and St. Petersburgh. Copies were sent to Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople, Paris and Rome.

§ Copies sent to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.

Government have, since the outbreak of the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, deprecated the diplomatic intervention of other Powers in the affairs of the Ottoman Empire.

They agreed, at the instance of the Porte, to take part in the Consular Commission established in August last, although they felt little confidence in any good results arising from it. They also, at the request of the Porte, took part in the concert of the Powers in regard to Count Andrassy's note, although with certain reservations. They scarcely suppose that the Porte will again appeal to them to join the other Powers on the present occasion; and, even if the Porte were to do so, they would not be able to comply, since they feel that they cannot conscientiously advise the Porte to accept conditions which they cannot recommend as politic or feasible.

On the other hand, Her Majesty's Government do not desire to counsel the Porte to resist any advice or proposals which the Porte may consider to be practicable and advantageous.

They cannot conceal from themselves that the gravity of the situation has arisen, in a great measure, from the weakness and apathy of the Porte in dealing with the insurrection in its earlier stages, and from the want of confidence in Turkish statesmanship and powers of government, shown by the state of financial, military, and administrative collapse into which the country has been allowed to fall. The responsibility of this condition of affairs must rest with the Sultan and his Government, and all that can be done by the Government of Her Majesty is to give such friendly counsel as circumstances may require. They cannot control events to which the neglect of ordinary principles of good government may expose the Turkish Empire.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 279.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 20.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 13, 1876.

THE new Servian Ministers are hitherto continuing the work of their predecessors in office.

They are proceeding to carry out the repartition of a forced loan for 500,000*l.* by means of Exchequer Bonds bearing 8 per cent. per annum, to which all the more wealthy taxpayers of the county will have to subscribe.

This loan had been projected for some time, and was referred to in my previous despatches.

The different military stores are being completed, and it is expected that Servia will consider herself sufficiently prepared for war in two or three weeks hence, though her capacity to enter the field against a regular and well trained army must be doubted by anyone more or less acquainted with the modern system of military operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 280.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 21.)

My Lord, *Rome, May* 18, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I called yesterday upon M. Melegari to inform him that Her Majesty's Government saw grave objections to the plan put forward at Berlin with the view of bringing about a pacification of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and consequently were not prepared to urge its adoption on the Porte.

His Excellency had already received this information from Count Menabrea, who, he said, seems to share the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the steps proposed to be taken were not likely to be productive of the desired result.

M. Melegari added that he regretted the decision of Her Majesty's Government not to unite with the other Powers on this occasion. His Excellency considered that united action between all the Powers was the surest means of securing the maintenance

of peace, and that, by associating themselves with the policy of the three Imperial Cabinets in the present instance, the Western Powers would be in a better position to exercise an influence over subsequent proceedings, should the measures now proposed fail to realize the hoped for pacification. These were the motives which had determined the Italian Government to support the new proposals. In his reply to the memorandum of the Chancellors, M. Melegari said that he had laid great stress upon the importance which the Italian Government attaches to no fresh proceedings being adopted without a previous agreement being established between the Powers as to their character.

I asked M. Melegari, with reference to a paragraph taken from the "Neue Freie Presse," which I had lately seen, whether the idea of a joint occupation of the insurgent provinces by Italian and Austrian troops had ever been brought before him. His Excellency stated in the most positive terms that, except through the newspapers, he had never heard a word on the subject. He seemed fully to appreciate how impossible it would be for Austria to agree to such an arrangement, and said that it was one which, in their desire for a good understanding between all the Powers, the Italian Government could never entertain, even if it should be brought forward, which he thought very unlikely.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 281.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, May* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Commission of Control, under the presidency of Haidar Effendi, has at last commenced its sittings. The subjects which chiefly occupy its attention at present are said to be the future mode of collection of the tithe or agricultural produce, the institution of "Takhsildars," or tax-gatherers, and the equable distribution of the "bedel-i-askerieh," or tax in lieu of military service.

No important military movements or encounters with the insurgents are reported from the north-west districts; but I am informed that Vely Pasha, the Commander of the forces, has found complete anarchy reigning in many parts of the country, and the Bashi-Bozouks terrorizing the people. At Chazin, near Bihach, especially, the confusion and disorder were so great that he placed the Kaïmakam, a Bosnian Mussulman, under arrest. More than 200 armed Turks, however, shortly congregated and demanded his release, and Vely Pasha was forced by threats and intimidation to accede to their demand and to withdraw from the place.

On Tuesday last the Governor-General, Ibrahim Pasha, was informed by the Grand Vizier of the murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica, and was instructed to redouble his vigilance in the interests of tranquillity and to take every precaution to ensure the safety of the lives of all Europeans and Christians. I am happy to be able to state that the news of this sad event has been received here by Mussulmans as well as Christians with the greatest indignation; but if the perpetrators of the deed be brought to condign punishment, I would suggest that the fact should be published in the official newspaper of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 282.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, May* 14, 1876.

WITHIN the last day or two the eighty insurgents who were interned by the Austrian authorities in the Island of Curzola have succeeded in escaping; and having landed at Ombla, near Ragusa, crossed the frontier into the Herzegovina.

The Island of Curzola is in sight of Ragusa. The Turks of course declare that the Podestà, who is said to be very Slavophil, connived at the escape.

Another fracas between Austrian subjects and Turkish troops occurred yesterday

near the fort of Zarnia, on the road to Trebigné, within sight of this town. The occasion was the straying of some sheep across the frontier. Shots were exchanged, and one Turkish soldier was wounded.

Several battalions which were engaged in the Douga battles have returned to Trebigné, and have received a certain amount of their arrears of pay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 283.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 17, 1876.*

I RECEIVED last night your Lordship's telegram of the same date, informing me that as the plan put forward by the three Northern Powers for the pacification of the Herzegovina appeared to Her Majesty's Government to have grave objections, they were not prepared to press the Porte to adopt it; and I called this morning, by appointment, on Count Andrassy, and communicated to his Excellency the decision of Her Majesty's Government, as stated above, on the proposal which had been made to them from Berlin.

I said that I had not expected Her Majesty's Government to comply with the wishes of the three Powers, as they would probably consider the employment of European Consular Delegates to superintend the arrangements for affording assistance to returning refugees objectionable, and as the provision for ulterior measures, should the pacification of the insurgent provinces not be accomplished before the expiration of the proposed armistice, might prove an encouragement to the insurgents to put forward new pretensions.

His Excellency answered that the employment of Consuls or their delegates to watch over the execution of the proposed arrangements had been agreed upon at Berlin as absolutely necessary to insure a result which was equally desirable with a view to the interests of Turkey and to the maintenance of the peace of Europe; and he thought that a Government would assume a very serious responsibility were it to encourage the Porte to reject the terms on which it is proposed to re-establish tranquillity in the insurgent provinces, as their rejection might have dangerous consequences.

With respect to the provision for the further consideration of the question, should the measures now proposed not be attended with the desired result, he said he could not see why it should be objected to, as it merely arranged that whatever further action might be necessary should be taken in concert with all the Powers.

He then read a letter or telegram from Count Beust, in which it is alleged that your Lordship was offended at Her Majesty's Government being called upon to give an immediate answer to the proposals of the three Powers, and as Count Andrassy disclaimed having fixed any time for the transmission of an answer, I replied that, whether Count Beust had represented correctly your Lordship's feelings or not, Lord Odo Russell's telegram had certainly stated that his Excellency and Prince Gortchakow would remain at Berlin till Monday last, in the hope of receiving in the meanwhile the decision of the other three Powers; and I added, that I was surprised to find that the French Government, without waiting for fuller information in writing, had apparently agreed to support at Constantinople so complicated a series of important measures upon a mere telegraphic summary of their character and objects.

Count Beust having also reported your Lordship to consider that to call upon the Porte to provide materials for the rebuilding of churches and houses, and food for returning emigrants, would be asking what the financial position of the Turkish Government would not enable it to perform, Count Andrassy observed, in reply, that it would, however, be only urging the complete fulfilment of an engagement which the Porte has already entered into, and is now partially carrying out, as some hundred families have returned to their homes, and are now receiving assistance from the Turkish authorities.

Count Beust having also stated that your Lordship disapproved the proposal that the Christians should retain their arms, his Excellency answered that the Christians would prefer the disarming of the Mussulmans, but, as it would be impossible, without serious disturbance, to apply such a measure to men who had been accustomed to wear arms from their childhood, the only way of establishing equality between the two

populations would be to extend the right to do so to the Christians; and, in answer to an inquiry on my part as to the practice of carrying arms in Dalmatia, he said the male inhabitants of the Bocche di Cattaro all did so

Count Beust having likewise reported an observation of your Lordship's on the unfairness of expecting the Porte to abstain from attacking Montenegro unless the Principality remained strictly neutral, his Excellency said that, as he concurred in that opinion, he could not object to Her Majesty's Government expressing it, and requiring that it should be acted upon, although he himself believed that Montenegro would fulfil its duty as a neutral State.

After these observations, his Excellency said, if Her Majesty's Government would not urge the Porte to adopt the entire programme agreed to at Berlin, he hoped at all events they would not encourage the Turkish Government to reject it, and that they would recommend the conclusion of the proposed armistice as an essential preliminary to any arrangement whatever. I said that if Her Majesty's Government did so, they would only be repeating advice which they had already given to the Porte at his Excellency's invitation before the late military operations in the Duga Pass, and which your Lordship had approved of my having also given to the Turkish Ambassador in Vienna, on the successful termination of these operations, but which Aarifi Pasha said had probably not been attended to at Constantinople, in consequence of the recent occurrences there and at Salonica.

His Excellency continued that, though he regretted that the whole programme had not obtained the sanction of Her Majesty's Government, which he considered would have been an important factor in promoting its success, he still trusted that they would not withhold their co-operation to such parts of it as might appear to them free from objection, and he would, therefore, immediately instruct Count Beust to endeavour to induce your Lordship to give it, at least, such a limited support; and he gave me to understand that it had been not without difficulty that he succeeded at Berlin in resisting proposals less in harmony with his previously expressed views as to the concessions which should be granted to the insurgents, and with what, he hoped, would meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government and the Porte would be willing to adopt.

His Excellency also stated that the recent occurrences at Salonica had exercised a very unfavourable influence on the question. The incident had not, he said, caused him much alarm, and he was ready to admit, as I suggested that, however deplorable, it should be looked upon as the consequence of popular tumult, which arose from the Christians being guilty of what the Turks considered a gross outrage on a Mahometan woman. The matter, however, he said, was not treated so lightly at Berlin, where it was held to be a proof that the safety of the Christians throughout the Turkish Empire is in serious danger from the fanaticism and excitement now prevailing among the Mussulman population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 284.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

(Extract.) *Berlin, May 18, 1876.*

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram last night I wrote a private note to Prince Bismarck, stating that Her Majesty's Government saw grave objections to the plan put forward by the three Imperial Governments, and were not prepared to press its adoption on the Porte; and I expressed at the same time, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, the sincere desire of Her Majesty's Government to act as far as possible with the German Government.

When I called to-day at the Foreign Office on Herr von Bülow, Prince Bismarck was attending the debates in the "Herren" House. His Excellency told me that the Prince had already spoken to him on the subject, and that Count Münster had equally telegraphed the decision of Her Majesty's Government yesterday to the Chancellor.

The German Government, Herr von Bülow said, could not but regret that the policy of the three Northern Powers would not have the advantage of the support of Her Majesty's Government at Constantinople, as it would have the support of the Governments of France and Italy; but they hoped Her Majesty's Government would, nevertheless, contribute otherwise towards the work of pacification in Turkey.

No. 285.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Berlin, May 20, 1876.*

THE Queen's messenger having been delayed by an insufficiency of water in Calais harbour, which prevented the steampacket landing passengers in time to catch the through train to Brussels and Cologne, I only received your Lordship's despatch of the 15th instant late last night; and as I shall probably not be able to see the Foreign Secretary before the Queen's messenger from Vienna leaves for London to-day, I must reserve my report in reply until next week.

Herr von Bülow told me, however, the last time we met that Count Münster had already telegraphed to Berlin the observations made to him on the 15th by your Lordship, and recorded in the above-named despatch respecting the objections entertained by Her Majesty's Government to the plan proposed by the three Imperial Powers for the pacification of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and explained in the Memorandum inclosed in my despatch of the 13th instant to your Lordship.

A similar communication had also been telegraphed, his Excellency said, to Vienna by Count Beust, and by Count Schouvaloff to Ems; and the German Government were still expecting an interchange of views with the Governments of Austria and Russia on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 286.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Berlin, May 20, 1876.*

SINCE writing my despatch of this day's date, I have seen the Chancellor, and read to his Highness in part your Lordship's despatch of the 15th instant, respecting the objections entertained by Her Majesty's Government to the plan of pacification proposed by the three Northern Powers.

Prince Bismarck had already been made acquainted with your Lordship's views through the German Ambassador in London, and his Highness said that he had instructed Count Münster to communicate his detailed reply to your Lordship.

Prince Bismarck admitted that the several Articles of the Memorandum were open to discussion and might be modified according to circumstances, and that he, for one, would willingly entertain any improvement Her Majesty's Government might have to propose, but he greatly regretted that Her Majesty's Government had not felt able to give a general support to the principle of the plan submitted to them by the Northern Powers, and agreed to by France and Italy, and had felt obliged to withdraw from the cordial understanding so happily established between the six Great Powers in regard to the pacification of the Herzegovina. He, hoped, however, that the attitude assumed by Her Majesty's Government would remain a benevolent one in regard to the action of the five Great Powers at Constantinople; and he felt convinced that Her Majesty's Government would do nothing that could encourage the resistance of the Turkish Government to their combined efforts in the interest of a speedy settlement of the difficulties they had undertaken to grapple with.

I replied that I would report what he had said to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 287.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.

(Extract.) *Vienna, May 23, 1876.*

I SAID to the Under-Secretary in charge of the Foreign Office, that as the Commissioner in Bosnia had failed to induce refugees to return, owing to the want of regular troops to protect them, and that as the Commissioner in the Herzegovina had resigned, on the ground that the Commander-in-chief had refused to detach troops for

that purpose, I thought that Her Majesty's Government were not likely to be convinced of the expediency of the concentration of the Turkish forces in these Provinces, according to the Berlin proposals.

No. 288.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 23.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, May* 12, 1876.

AN immediate and marked improvement took place in the aspect of things here upon the announcement of the change of Grand Viziers, and comparative confidence was restored.

Many circumstances which have come to my knowledge have fully confirmed me in the conviction I had already conveyed to your Lordship, that the demonstration was directed against the Sultan and Mahmoud Pasha, and that no hostile design was entertained against the Christians.

But, although the objects of the organizers of the movement were political, and neither social nor religious, it is not to be doubted that the Christians would have been exposed to imminent danger in the event of a popular tumult.

The visible leaders of the movement were the Softas, or students of the Koran, a determined and energetic body of men, numbering, as far as I can ascertain, between 5,000 and 6,000, who are, however, able to exercise influence over many others.

It appears that on the 10th instant a large assemblage of them met Prince Izeddin when on his way to the Seraskeriat in Stamboul, and stopping him, bade him return and inform the Sultan of their demands, viz., the dismissal of the Sheikl-ul-Islam and the Grand Vizier.

His Majesty, on receiving the message, sent his Secretary to the Mosque, where upwards of 2,000 were assembled, in order to ascertain more precisely what it was they wanted, and by the next day at noon both their wishes had been complied with.

From what I can learn of the ulterior designs of these men I gather that they evidently, under an able leader, intend before long to require the Sultan to modify his prerogative, and to grant a representative and constitutional form of Government, the main object of this demand being to ensure an efficient control over the finance of the State.

Although Mehemet Ruschdi Pasha, the new Grand Vizier, is universally respected, the appointment of Midhat Pasha may not improbably still be insisted upon, and they are all the more confident that their requests will meet with consideration, that they feel convinced that no armed force will ever be prevailed upon to act against them.

There being, for the present, no fanatical element in this movement, its leaders appear ready to share with the Christians the right of representation, and thus to insure to them the attainment of political equality with the Moslem, which has been so often though vainly promised.

The programme of the Softas bears so much resemblance to that which is known to be advocated by Midhat Pasha, that it is not surprising that many persons should regard His Highness, if not as the head, at least as one of the principal members of this remarkable organization.

Although the present movement has for the moment passed off quietly, its importance and possible future consequences are not to be overlooked.

The Softas have learned their own strength, and having once succeeded in intimidating the Sovereign, may be tempted to renew the experiment.

I do not myself entertain a doubt that the only safe course now to follow is the one which I myself suggested to the Sultan some months ago by the regular adoption of some measure of constitutional control over the action of the Government.

No. 289.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 23.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 15, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit the further reports from Vice-Consul Dupuis upon the progress of the insurrection in Western Roumelia and the coming and enrolment of Bashi-Bozouks in its neighbourhood.

Your Lordship will no doubt be struck that, whereas the Russian Consuls at Adrianople and Philippopoli dared not show themselves in public, the Greeks at the latter place waited with the Turks to repel any attack from the Bulgarians.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bourgas, reporting the spread of the insurrection among the highlands of the Balkans, and the existence of a considerable supply of arms and ammunition in the insurgent districts.

The information, on the other hand, which I received yesterday from the Porte was of a more reassuring character, and the railway bridges which had been destroyed by the insurgents were being reconstructed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 289.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Adrianople, May 12, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the authorities at the Konak yesterday published in Turkish, Greek, and Bulgarian, a telegram from Hafons Pasha, the Commander of thet roops at Tatar Bazardjik, a translation of which is as follows :—

"On the $\frac{26}{8}$th instant, the village of Strjelitza was taken by a battalion of cavalry, who behaved heroically under my command. The insurgents had two killed and five wounded; the rest fled to Avratalan, in the Balkans. The guns and ammunition which fell into my hands, as well as 177 Turkish pounds found on the prisoners, I have sent to Tatar Bazardjik. I then withdrew to the village of Aivaly, where, having made preparations, I start this morning for Strjelitza to join the army and pursue the enemy. Avratalan is four hours from Strjelitza and three from Otleukeui. As soon as I reach Otleukeui, I intend to push a reconnaissance, and continue operations against the insurgents. The insurgents are concentrated at the two aforesaid villages."

Intelligence having been received the day before yesterday, and since confirmed, that the railway station at Bellova was burnt down by insurgents, and two railway bridges between Sarembez and Tatar Bazardjik also burnt, and the line between the latter places torn up, I telegraphed to your Excellency to that effect last night.

Among other items of intelligence, I learn that some twenty Bulgarian prisoners, including four priests brought from Philippopoli, as well as the individuals on whom insurgent correspondence was discovered, as I telegraphed on the 7th instant, were forwarded to Constantinople yesterday, heavily chained.

I likewise inform your Excellency that the local authorities, as well as the Turkish Begs here, are displaying great activity in the enrolment and equipment of Bashi-Bazouks, and other volunteers, and batches of Turkish peasantry are continually arriving from the surrounding villages to be supplied with arms and ammunition.

The Governor-General, in reply to my inquiries on the subject of the enrolment of these irregular troops, told me that they would only be used to guard the railway line. Nevertheless, the presence of such troops, and the fact that the Mussulman inhabitants have been provided with arms and ammunition by the authorities, continues to cause serious apprehensions lest the public peace should be disturbed.

In the meanwhile, I hear that, in consequence of the disorders said to have been committed by the Bashi-Bazouks, the bazaars and shops in Philippopoli and Tatar Bazardjik are closed, and the inhabitants leaving in numbers. Inclosed, I beg to transmit copy of a letter from M. Milcoff, from which your Excellency may judge the state of the panic existing there. M. Milcoff, who is a naturalized British

subject, applied to me in a previous letter to be allowed to hoist the English flag over his house. In answer, I informed him that I could not authorize him to do so, without referring to Her Majesty's Embassy.

Aziz Pasha, the Mutessarif of Philippopoli, has since my last report been dismissed, and Hamdi Pasha appointed in his stead.

A friend of mine, who returned last night, tells me that the state of the country between Philippopoli, Bellova and Otloukeui is deplorable to behold, that villages are burning in all directions of the compass; that in consequence of ignorance and apathy on the part of the Turkish functionaries, the greatest disorder and confusion prevails there.

The burning of Bellova seems to have been attended with horrible cruelties to the small Turkish guard in charge of the place, which, being overpowered, was hacked to pieces by the Bulgarians.

My informant adds that shortly after this occurrence a party of about 150 well-mounted and equipped insurgents, led by the priests, presented itself in the village, declaring, with crucifixes in hand, that that was the way to exterminate Islamism.

Fears are meanwhile entertained for the safety of the Yamboli Lizi and the surrounding country, for should the insurrection spread along the Balkans, and Shumla fall into the hands of the insurgents, even Constantinople will be menaced.

P.S.—It is reported, that while gunpowder is being openly sold to the Turkish inhabitants in this city, it is refused to Christians.

Inclosure 2 in No. 289.

M. Milcoff to Vice-Consul Dupuis.

Sir, *Philippopoli, May* 10, 1876.

AS I wrote you in my last letter, my family are in great fear and anxiety. Be kind enough, please, to let me know by telegraph what I must do; shall I stay here or leave at once for your town? If I stay here I must have some protection and security, so you will oblige me to get me from your Vali Pasha an Emirnamé to our Governor—in any case, to get some protection and security. The day before I called on the Governor here, and asked him to give me a guard. They told me that they had not any to spare. What must I do, and my family, who are in great fear and anxiety? I shall wait your advice with anxiety.

(Signed) M. MILCOFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 289.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Adrianople, May* 13, 1876.

ALTHOUGH I have the satisfaction to announce to your Excellency that the public tranquillity continues undisturbed in this city, and that I fail to discover any motive so far from apprehending the contrary state of things, still I think it my duty to acquaint your Excellency that a sort of stillness seems to pervade all classes of society—a stillness and quiet almost felt, so to say, as if every one was living in a state of uncertainty and expectancy of some impending or menacing event.

Conflicting rumours of all kinds are going the rounds respecting the attitude of the Turks; and I am positively assured that whilst the Mussulman inhabitants are not only permitted to circulate the streets armed with pistols and zatagans, but even to monopolize the sale of gunpowder to their countrymen, Christians are forbidden to make purchases of that nature.

On the other hand, I hear that both the people and the Bashi-Bozouks have been summoned to the konak to deliver up their arms, which will be restored on their being ordered off for active duty, either in guarding the railway, or against the insurgents.

Hadji Achmet Aga, Rasim Bey, and other Turks of note here, are showing patriotism by arming and maintaining, at their own expense, a corps of 200 Bashi-Bozouks, each for operations in the Balkans.

Independent of a few zaptiehs, the garrison of Adrianople consists of about two and a-half battalions of Redifs, some 200 artillerymen, and 4 guns; but I believe other troops are expected.

It was given out a day or two ago, that the Russian Consul at Philippopoli had been insulted; this, however, has been contradicted; but it is nevertheless true that both he and the Russian Consul here are afraid to show themselves in the public streets.

I have it from my Greek colleague, as a remarkable circumstance, and probably not without some signification, that the Greeks in Philippopoli united with the Turkish guards to maintain order, and to repel any attempt against the place by the Bulgarians.

I have just heard that Hafous Pasha, instead of attacking with his troops a body of 200 insurgents, near Otloukeui, contented himself with dispersing them from a distance with artillery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 289.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Bourgas, May* 13, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to express to your Excellency my belief that the Bulgarian insurrectionary movement commenced in the Caza of Philippopoli will not be confined to that district. I have some reason for thinking that the plans of the insurgents embrace six centres of revolt, most of them in the High Balkan (Kodja Balkan, Stari Planina), in each of which localities depôts of arms—rifles, revolvers, &c.—ammunition, and provisions are hidden. The authorities of this vilayet have received notice that arms have been landed at Sizopoli and Vassilikos, small towns on the coast between Bourgas and Constantinople, and an "avviso" has been sent here. This information I believe to be incorrect, the inhabitants of the coast being Greek Rayahs, between whom and the Bulgarians any concerted action or, indeed, any kind of fusion appears to me impossible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

No. 290.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May 23.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 21 *Mai*, 1876.

ON nous informe que, dans l'entrevue de Berlin, il a été question de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine; que les Ministres des trois Empires ont arrêté les bases d'un projet de pacification. D'après ce projet, on voudrait nous amener à consentir à une suspension d'armes de deux mois pendant lesquels des pourparlers seraient engagés entre la Sublime Porte et les Délégués Bosniens et Herzégoviniens sur la base des vœux formulés par eux et jugés propres à servir de point de départ à une discussion. Le projet en question se résumerait en cinq points principaux, à savoir:—Reconstruction des églises et des maisons des réfugiés qui rentront, le Gouvernement devant fournir les matériaux et assurer à ces derniers leur subsistance jusqu'à ce qu'ils puissent vivre de leur travail; nomination d'un Président Chrétien Herzégovinien pour la Commission exécutive des réformes; cantonnement des troupes jusqu'à l'apaisement des esprits sur quelques points à convenir; faculté laissée aux Musulmans comme aux Chrétiens de garder les armes; surveillance exercée par les Consuls des Puissances sur l'application des réformes et sur les faits relatifs au rapatriement. Enfin, et la suite de ces cinq points, le projet aurait eu soin de prévoir une éventualité, celle de l'expiration du délai de deux mois sans que les efforts des Puissances aboutissent au but désiré. Dans ce cas, les trois Cours Impériales prendraient les mesures efficaces qui paraîtraient réclamées dans l'intérêt de la paix générale. Tel serait en substance ce document. Quoique son existence ne soit pas officiellement connue de tous, les points susdits sont trop importants, ils font naître de trop légitimes préoccupations pour que je ne doive pas dès à présent même, et ne fût-ce que sur de simples renseignements, vous faire connaître en quelques mots l'impression que la nouvelle du projet et des démarches en question a produite sur nous, les réfutations qu'elles nous suggèrent, et les considérations auxquelles elles donnent lieu.

Avant tout, et surtout, le résultat, tel qu'il est connu des Conférences de Berlin,

a provoqué en nous un sentiment de profond regret, je dirai presque de découragement amer, et cela n'étonnera personne si l'on examine les faits et la situation sans prévention et avec une impartiale équité. On reconnaîtra aisément que ce que nous devons déplorer le plus, c'est la coïncidence si malheureuse pour l'œuvre de la pacification des propositions formulées avec les circonstances actuelles favorables, et combien ce projet, évidemment inspiré par le désir général d'amener la paix et la tranquillité en Bosnie et en Herzégovine, mis en avant aujourd'hui, ira à l'encontre du but proposé, paralysera les efforts, détruira les résultats satisfaisants déjà acquis au prix de tant de sacrifices. Dans cette ordre d'idées, et sans entamer ici une discussion à fond qui trouvera sa place ailleurs, je vous dirais que le projet élaboré à Berlin surgit au milieu d'un état de choses qui, examiné sans parti pris, constitue pour ainsi dire une des dernières étapes vers l'apaisement ; qu'il arrive le lendemain d'un grand succès militaire, remporté par Mukta. Pacha, succès dont l'obtention nous a été toujours indiquée, et que nous tenons, comme devant hâter la pacification. Ce projet, enfin, se produit lorsque les insurgés, battus et défaits à Douga, sont aux abois, qu'ils ont fait des pertes énormes, que leurs bandes sont dispersées, qu'ils sont démoralisés, que, ne pouvant tenir la campagne, ils se sont réfugiés sur les montagnes, et que des milliers de familles réfugiées commencent à rentrer dans leurs foyers. Dès lors, il est facile de voir l'effet que va produire sur ces bonnes dispositions le résultat des Conférences de Berlin, qui semble mettre tout en question, et quelle regrettable diversion il va produire.

Pour nous, qui voyons et jugeons les choses de près, nous pensons et nous sommes convaincus que ce résultat arrêtera le retour de l'émigration, réveillera un espoir chimérique chez les insurgés découragés, les entraînera fatalement à la résistance, et, en rayant par là l'action de l'autorité, compromettra gravement l'opération de la pacification. Certes, les responsabilités inhérentes à une telle conséquence sont trop graves pour que le Gouvernement Impérial ne croie pas de son devoir de les écarter dès à présent.

Dans de telles conditions, et dans de telles circonstances, pourrions-nous, sans méconnaître ouvertement nos devoirs, nous faire bon marché des avantages obtenus jusqu'à présent au prix de tant de sang versé, consentir à la trêve proposée de deux mois ? En le faisant, nous contribuerions non-seulement à rendre encore plus pénibles les charges déjà si lourdes occasionnées au Trésor par cette malheureuse insurrection, mais nous consacrerions, d'une part, la démoralisation de l'armée, et nous fournirions, de l'autre, aux insurgés le répit si nécessaire et le temps si précieux à une pareille occurrence pour réparer leurs pertes, se réorganiser, grossir leurs rangs ; enfin, pour recommencer la lutte peut-être avec quelque chance de succès, et cela précisément le lendemain de l'expérience de la dernière trêve dont les combats sanglants de Douga se sont chargé d'expliquer les conséquences.

Pour ce qui est de la reconstruction des églises et des maisons, et des subsides à accorder aux émigrés rentrant jusqu'à ce qu'ils puissent vivre de leur travail, votre Excellence sait que le Gouvernement Impérial a promis, indépendamment des autres faveurs, de donner toutes les facilités nécessaires pour ces constructions et d'accorder des subsides aux nécessiteux pour un terme indiqué. Mais de là à ce qui nous serait proposé il y a loin, et nous croyons n'être pas contestés en disant qu'assurer la subsistance de ces gens pendant un temps indéterminé qui ne prendrait fin que selon leur bon plaisir, ce serait non-seulement créer une charge ruineuse pour le fisc, mais encore donner publiquement une prime à l'insurrection, un encouragement à la paresse, et favoriser indirectement ce que l'on avait en vue de prévenir.

Nous nous demandons également si c'est dans un but d'apaisement et de conciliation qu'on voudrait laisser leurs armes aux Musulmans et aux Chrétiens, tout en cantonnant les troupes sur certains points. La plus simple réflexion suffit pour faire voir que, dans l'état actuel des choses et des esprits, un tel mode de procéder équivaudrait à laisser libre carrière à tous les mauvais instincts et à éterniser les conflits, puisqu'on éloigne, qu'on isole, qu'on neutralise la seule force capable de contenir les passions, d'apaiser les haînes, de prévenir et d'empêcher les luttes.

Nous avons de la peine à comprendre la coëxistence de la présidence de la Commission par un Herzégovinien Chrétien, et de la surintendance à exercer par les Consuls ; car, si la première proposition est formulée comme une preuve de confiance et une garantie d'exécution, la seconde n'est rien moins qu'une manifestation destructive de cette confiance, indépendamment de ce qu'elle a de blessant, au premier chef, pour la dignité du Gouvernement et pour le prestige de l'autorité.

Enfin, et pour clore cette énumération, je dirais que la simple énonciation par le projet de l'éventualité d'une entente à établir si le délai de deux mois expire sans

qu'une solution intervienne, suffit à elle seule pour rendre tout effort infructueux, et entièrement stérile l'œuvre même préconisée par la Conférence.

En un mot, le résumé de nos réflexions est que le Gouvernement Impérial, qui a été jusqu'à accepter les propositions contenues dans la note du Comte Andrassy uniquement par déférence pour les conseils des Puissances, et sur les assurances formelles qu'elles ont bien voulu lui donner comme quoi l'application des mesures suggérées amènerait la pacification à laquelle elles contribueraient ; d'ailleurs, moralement et d'une façon efficace, ne saurait aujourd'hui sortir des limites tracées par ces propositions, approuvées par toute l'Europe et acceptées par nous.

Je vous prie de vous inspirer des considérations ci-dessus esquissées dans l'entretien que vous auriez à ce sujet avec M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 21, 1876.

WE are informed that in the Berlin Conference the question of Bosnia and the Herzegovina was discussed, and that the Ministers of the three Empires defined the basis of a project of pacification. In accordance with this project it is proposed to induce us to consent to a suspension of arms for two months, during which time negotiations should be entered into between the Sublime Porte and the Bosnian and Herzegovinian Delegates, on the ground of wishes expressed by them, and thought appropriate to serve as the basis of a discussion. This project might be summarized under five leading heads, viz. :—

The rebuilding of the churches and houses of the refugees who shall return, the Government furnishing the materials and supplying them with food until they can support themselves by their labour ; the nomination of a Herzegovinian Christian as President of the Executive Commission of Reform ; the cantonment of troops at some points to be agreed upon until quiet is restored ; permission given to the Christians as well as to the Mussulmans to keep their arms ; a superintendence exercised by the Consuls of the Powers over the application of reforms and whatever relates to the return of the refugees. Lastly, and as the consequence of these five points, the project is said to have provided for the eventuality of the expiration of the delay of two months without the efforts of the Powers having arrived at the wished-for end. In this case the three Imperial Courts would take the necessary measures which might appear to be demanded in the interest of general peace. Such is said to have been the substance of this document. Although its existence is not officially known to all, the above-mentioned points are so important, they give rise to such legitimate anxieties, that I consider it my duty even now, and only on the scanty information at hand, to let you know in a few words the impression that the news of the project and of the proceedings in question has produced on us, as well as the refutations that they suggest to us, and the considerations that they give rise to.

First, and above all, the result, as far as it is known, of the Berlin Conferences has caused in us a sentiment of profound regret, I might almost say of bitter discouragement, which will astonish nobody who examines the facts and the situation without predisposition and with impartial equity. It will be seen at first sight that that which we must most deplore, is the coincidence so unhappy for the work of pacification of these propositions formulated when everything is going on so well, and how this project—evidently inspired by the general desire to bring peace and quiet to Bosnia and the Herzegovina—which is now put forward will be in opposition to the proposed object, will paralyse the efforts to reduce the rebellion, and will destroy the satisfactory results already acquired at the price of such sacrifices. In view of these circumstances, and without entering here upon a fundamental discussion which will find its place elsewhere, I would mention that the project drawn up at Berlin appears in the midst of a state of affairs which, examined impartially, constitutes, so to speak, one of the last stages towards pacification ; that it appears the day after a great military success gained by Moukhtar Pasha—the obtaining of which has always been pointed out to us as likely to hasten pacification, in which opinion we entirely agree. This project, in fact, is brought forward when the insurgents, beaten and defeated at Douga, are at the last gasp ; when they have had enormous losses ; when their bands are dispersed ; when they are demoralized ; and when, not able to continue the campaign, they have taken refuge in the mountains ; and when thousands of refugee families are beginning to return home. It is easy, therefore, to see the effect that the result of the Berlin Conferences, which seems to put everything in doubt, will

produce on these good dispositions, and what a regrettable diversion it is sure to produce.

For our part, who see and judge of these things from near, we think, and we are convinced, that this event will stop the return of emigration; will re-awaken a chimerical hope in the now discouraged insurgents; will lead them on fatally to resistance; and by this means negativing the action of authority, will compromise gravely the operation of pacification. In truth, the responsibilities attaching to such a consequence are too grave for the Imperial Government not to consider it its duty to take the earliest opportunity of guarding against them.

Under these conditions and in such circumstances could we, without openly failing in our duty, give up so easily the advantages hitherto gained at the price of so much bloodshed, and consent to the proposed truce of two months. By so doing, we should not only help to render still more onerous the charges, already too heavy, caused to the Treasury by this unhappy insurrection, but we should insure, on the one hand, the demoralization of the army, and should furnish, on the other, to the insurgents the respite so necessary and the time so precious under such circumstances for the repairing of their losses, the re-organization and increase of their forces, for the resumption of the contest with, perhaps, some chance of success, and this directly after the experience of the last truce, the consequence of which is explained by the bloody fights of the Douga.

As far as regards the reconstruction of the houses and churches, and subsidies to be granted to the returning emigrants until they can live by their work, your Excellency knows that the Imperial Government has promised, independently of other favours, to give them every facility for these buildings, and to grant subsidies to the needy for a fixed term. But between this and that which is to be proposed to us there is a wide difference, and we do not think that it will be contested when we say that to promise subsistence to these people for an indefinite period which should only end according to their pleasure, would be not only to create a ruinous charge for the Treasury, but would, moreover, give publicly an encouragement to the insurrection and to idleness, and indirectly favour that which we have in view to provide against.

We also ask if it is with the object of appeasing and conciliating that the Mussulmen and Christians are to keep their arms, the troops being cantonned at certain points. The simplest reflection is enough to show that, in the existing state of things and minds, such a course of action would be equivalent to giving free scope to every evil nature and to render the conflict unending, for it would put at a distance, isolate, and neutralise the only force capable of restraining passion, appeasing hatred, guarding against and preventing fighting.

We are at a loss to understand the co-existence of the Presidency of the Commission by a Herzegovinian Christian and of the superintendence to be exercised by the Consuls, for if the former proposition is suggested as a proof of confidence and a guarantee of execution, the second is nothing less than a manifestation destructive of this confidence, independently of the fact that it is in the highest degree hurtful to the dignity of the Government and the prestige of its authority.

Finally, and to close this enumeration, I would say that the bare enunciation in the project of the eventuality of an agreement to be established, if the delay of two months expire without any solution being arrived at, suffices in itself to render every effort fruitless, and the work itself suggested by the Conference entirely sterile.

In one word, the summing-up of our reflections is that the Imperial Government, which has gone so far as to accept the propositions contained in the note of Count Andrassy, entirely out of deference to the advice of the Powers, and on the formal assurances which they were good enough to give that the application of the measures suggested would insure the pacification, to which they would further contribute morally and efficaciously, cannot now go beyond the limits traced by those propositions, approved as they have been by the whole of Europe and accepted by us.

I beg you to hold language in agreement with the considerations detailed above in the interview which you will have on this subject with the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 291.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 23.)

My Lord, *Paris, May* 22, 1876.

I HAD yesterday the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant, instructing me to read to the Duc Decazes the despatch (a copy of which was therein inclosed) which your Lordship had addressed to Lord Odo Russell the same day, informing that Ambassador of the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the memorandum containing the proposals of the Austrian, German, and Russian Governments for the pacification of the Turkish insurgent districts.

I attended at the reception at the French Foreign Office yesterday evening, and I informed the Duke Decazes of your Lordship's instructions, and asked for an early interview.

His Excellency observed that he had been both surprised and grieved at the decision of Her Majesty's Government, which had been communicated to him, not to adhere to the new proposals of the three Imperial Courts. He said that he had written to the French Ambassador in London a despatch on this subject, which would be read to your Lordship, and he begged me to call upon him this morning to execute my instructions.

I have accordingly communicated to the Duke your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch, and at his Excellency's desire I placed a copy of it in his hands.

On leaving his Excellency I telegraphed to your Lordship, stating particularly his extreme anxiety that Her Majesty's Government might find it possible to reconsider their decision, and that, by acceding to an armistice, however short, some common ground might be found which would lead to a general concert of the six Powers on this important question.

I reserve for another despatch my report of His Excellency's observations upon your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin.

Your Lordship will, however, find them, in the main, in the Duke's despatch to the Marquis d'Harcourt, which his Excellency was kind enough to read to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 292.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 24.)

My Lord, *Paris, May* 22, 1876.

WHEN I saw the Duc Decazes to-day, as stated in my preceding despatch, his Excellency again expressed his surprise and regret at the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to join in the new proposals of the three Imperial Courts, and he said that when he telegraphed to Berlin the adhesion of the French Government, it was with the conviction that Her Majesty's Government would adopt the same course.

As I read to him your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, the Duke made from time to time observations, the substance of some at least of which I will endeavour to convey to your Lordship.

With regard to the armistice he considered that it would be as advantageous to the Porte as to the insurgents, if not more so. The experience, he thought, of the past months had shown that the Turkish army were in such a condition that they could not put down the insurrection, and the War Department, as an organized portion of the Government, could employ the period of the armistice to more advantage in putting the army into a better state than the insurgents, who had no such organization to fall back upon, could possibly do for themselves.

He did not think that the expenses of the reconstruction of the houses and churches of the insurgents, or of finding subsistence for the returning refugees would be so great as that the Porte could not find means to meet them. At all events, if the alternative was to be a continuance of the struggle, he was of opinion that the war expenses which would fall upon the Porte would be much heavier in that case.

He did not, he said, consider that the concentration of the Turkish troops in certain places would be delivering up the whole country to anarchy; on the contrary, he thought this measure would tend to the pacification of the disturbed districts. The struggle, he contended, was not a religious one, not a fight between Christian and Mussulman, but an agrarian insurrection, having its origin in bad administration.

He defended Consular supervision. He allowed, indeed, that the mission of the Consuls to Mostar had been a failure, but then that had happened whilst fighting was going on, and their chance of doing good was small, but he was of opinion that such a supervision as had been suggested would, during the armistice, have much greater chance of success in the disturbed districts.

But, besides these and other observations with which I need hardly trouble your Lordship, the Duc Decazes spoke to me at length, and in peculiarly earnest language, of the result which he dreaded if, by the non-consent of all the Powers, an armistice became impossible, and thus the present struggle were to be kept up.

His Excellency drew a graphic picture of the probable spread of the insurrection, of the consequent rising of one Province after another in the Ottoman Empire, of the greater and greater effusion of blood, of the gradual dismemberment of the Empire, until at last, as he feared, all Europe might be drawn into the vortex.

He implored Her Majesty's Government to reconsider their decision; he trusted that they would at least consent to recommend an armistice, however short, in order that an attempt might be made to find some ground for the establishment of a common concert between the six Powers, and he declared that, for his part, he could not but consider that if England stood aloof at this momentous crisis, it would be "a public calamity" for Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 293.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 24, 1876.

THE Marquis d'Harcourt called at this office to-day, and told me that he had received a despatch from his Excellency the Duc Decazes, instructing him to communicate to me the views of the French Government on the policy of the Berlin proposals, and the attitude of Her Majesty's Government in regard to them.

As the despatch was too long to read conveniently, his Excellency confined himself to recapitulating its substance.

He then stated to me the opinion of the French Government in almost the same words which the Duc Decazes had made use of, as reported in your despatch of the 22nd instant.

I thanked him, in reply, for the courtesy shown by the French Government to Her Majesty's Government in the matter, and for the desire which he had expressed on this behalf, that the two Governments should act in concert.

I, however, said that Her Majesty's Government had already carefully considered the question in all its aspects, and were not indifferent to the considerations to which he had referred. They could nevertheless not depart from the line of conduct which it had appeared to them they were bound to pursue, and I was consequently unable to do more than repeat the regret of Her Majesty's Government at being unable to act in concert with France and the other Powers who had accepted the proposals, and to request his Excellency to thank Duc Decazes for his present communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 294.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 24.)

(Extract.) *Paris, May* 22, 1876.

DURING my interview to-day with the Duc Decazes, his Excellency spoke to me about the proposal which had now emanated from Russia, namely, that, as England refuses to adhere to the new Memorandum for the pacification of the Turkish insurgent districts, the other five Powers should proceed, without her, to address notes to the Porte in the spirit of that Memorandum.

The Duke told me that he was not going to give in his adhesion to such a proposal at once by telegraph. He intended, he said, to wait, solely in the hope that Her Majesty's Government might re-consider their decision, and that England might,

after all, renounce her present isolation, and thus a concert of the six Powers might still be obtained.

No. 295.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 24, 1876.

THE Turkish Ambassador called to-day to discuss with me the telegraphic despatch from the Porte which he had communicated to me yesterday.

After his Excellency had recapitulated the substance of the telegram and made some general remarks, I stated that Her Majesty's Government would not advise any precipitate action on the part of the Porte in regard to the proposals which had been prepared at Berlin. It appeared to them that the proper course for the Porte to pursue was to carefully examine the several points in detail and ask for explanations upon them before giving any decisive reply. Her Majesty's Government would not, however, assume the responsibility of advising the Porte, who must be guided by what they thought best, after due consideration, for the welfare of the Ottoman Empire.

His Excellency then asked me what Her Majesty's Government supposed would be the next step taken by the Powers, and whether any modification was likely to take place in the proposals. I said that I understood that the Powers were likely to present an identic note or separate notes of a similar purport in the sense of the Berlin proposals, and I had no reason to suppose that it was intended to modify them in any respect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 296.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 24, 1876, 1·45 P.M.

IT is expected that Her Majesty"s squadron will reach Besika Bay on Friday.

I send the "Antelope" there to-morrow, and propose to suggest to the Admiral that he should visit Constantinople, in order that I may confer with him on the state of affairs.

No. 297.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25.)

My Lord, *Mostar, May* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, dated to-day, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, regarding the removal of Ali Pasha, the breaking-up of the camp at Gatzko, the return of some hundreds of families of refugees, and other matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 297.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, May* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a couple of days ago Ali Pasha received a despatch announcing his removal from the Herzegovina, and his appointment to Scutari. His Excellency was much disgusted with this news, and

tells me that he has tendered his resignation. He has heard that his removal was occasioned by the representations of Baron Rodich. He is replaced by a certain Salim Effendi.

The Commander-in-chief, Moukhtar Pasha, arrived here last night, and it is said that the camp at Gatzko is to be broken up. What is meant by this is not understood here, but it is supposed that some means of pacification has been decided on without more fighting. It is absolutely asserted by information from Montenegro and elsewhere that Moukhtar Pasha did not go to Nichsich, being unable, as before, to advance beyond Preshika, three hours from that place, but that about 300 loads of provisions, which managed to get in advance of the troops, were taken and safely escorted to Nichsich by the inhabitants, who had come out to assist Moukhtar Pasha. Ali Pasha, however, who is not particularly inclined to place any faith in Moukhtar Pasha's assertions, says that, from certain information from other sources, he cannot doubt but that the Commander-in-chief really did reach Nichsich. After all, it is of very little consequence whether he did or not. The garrison has been relieved for a short time, but, unless a pacification is effected, it will have to be revictualled again in a few weeks.

Several hundred families of refugees have returned to their homes, and more are expected. The Austrian Government, it appears, has declared that they must do so, and that all supplies will cease if they do not; but it is said that if they are molested or not supported by the Turks, they have been informed that they will be at liberty to return, and rations will again be allowed them. Wassa Effendi has done all he can to insure their safety, but he complains that Moukhtar Pasha pays no attention to his demands for troops to be stationed in Popovopolie to protect them.

Wassa Effendi has this instant informed me that Moukhtar Pasha has declared categorically that he will not send any troops to Popovopolie to protect the insurgents who are about to return to that neighbourhood, as he pretends he cannot move a single battalion. Wassa Effendi has telegraphed his resignation to the Grand Vizier and Raschid Pasha.

No. 298.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office May* 25.)

(Extract.) *Buda Pest, May* 21, 1876.

COUNT ANDRASSY appeared yesterday before the Budget Committee of the Austrian Delegation, for the purpose of being privately interrogated as to his Oriental policy, and I have the honour to transmit herewith a précis of the proceedings, as reported on hearsay, but with substantial accuracy, in the "Pester Lloyd," of this morning.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Précis of Count Andrassy's Answers before the Budget Committee of the Austrian Delegation respecting his Oriental Policy.

AT the meeting of the Budget Committee of the Austrian Delegation on May 20 M. Shaup, as reporter on the Common Budget for Foreign Affairs, recalled the fact that to the last Delegation the Ministry had announced a threefold policy, namely:—

1. The preservation of peace in Europe;
2. The maintenance of the interests of the Monarchy;
3. The prevention of the recurrence of similar relations.

His Imperial Majesty's reply had reassured them as to the first, whilst the third could not become practical till after the cessation of the present movement. As regards the second question, however, he wished to know of what advantage it was to Austria to take the initiative, and also to know, as far as possible, what had been the results of the Berlin Conferences.

Dr. Giskra remarked upon the vacillations in the treatment of the insurgents, and asked on what grounds the Reform proposals had not been carried out; what had caused further demands upon Turkey to be made; and whether an occupation or intervention was in view.

Dr. Kuranda put similar questions, and observed that he feared the note prepared

in Berlin could be considered to be the firing of the first cannon, and that no clear programme existed as to the Oriental policy of to-day; and he then inquired what would happen if Turkey rejected the note.

Dr. Herbst indulged in similar criticisms, and put the additional question—Is there any course decided upon in the eventuality that the Reforms be proved impracticable, either from the incapacity of the Porte to carry them out, or from the continued opposition of the insurgents?

To these questions and other cross-examining remarks Count Andrassy replied as follows:—

That it was true he had last year declared his policy to consist in the maintenance of the general peace, the prevention of complications in Turkey and the neighbouring countries, and the attainment of such concessions as should tend to prevent a recurrence of the present movement. The first point he had obtained; the second had been gained by preventing other elements from mixing with the insurgents; and the third was being striven for by the proposed Reforms. The first two points were wholly in the hands of the Great Powers; and, as regards the third, the Reforms were supported by Europe, accepted by Turkey, and gladly welcomed in principle by the insurgents, who, however, claimed guarantees for their fulfilment. Hence the present stage of the action of the Powers was to peacefully remove the obstacles to the completion of the Reforms. He could not admit that the question was now at a more intense burning point than at the period of the last Delegations. In spite of all opinions to the contrary, the union of the three Powers had been successfully secured, and the project of reform accepted even by Turkey and the insurgents.

It has been asserted that England has not yet joined the other Powers; but a reason for this may be in the mode of communication by telegraph, which differs from that formerly in practice of full details. Without being a prophet he could express his private conviction that England would join as soon as she could be satisfied as to the peaceful tendency which has guided the three Powers in their course.

He could not communicate the agreement until it had been addressed to the Porte, but he could declare that its only object was to remove obstacles to carrying out the reforms, and to prove the perfect union of the European Powers in presence of the latest events in Turkey and especially of the occurrences at Salonica.

He set great value upon the determination of the Powers to maintain the peace of Europe and always to come to an understanding, as eventuality followed eventuality.

He met reproaches as to diverging from traditional policy, by declaring that he knew only one tradition—that of preserving the interests of the Monarchy. And no reproach could lie as to the supposed connivance with the insurgents at the beginning. The possibly incomplete fulfilment of instructions of strict neutrality lay in the local relations on the frontier. He must also deny that there were two currents of policy. The Ministry and he himself accepted full responsibility, and, as long as he was Minister, there could be only one "will of the State" manifested abroad. As regards the treatment of the insurgents the only policy was a middle policy between the opposing interests of the two parties. He then spoke decidedly against any idea of occupation.

As regards the reforms he could add that the insurgents had demanded things absolutely inadmissible, things already granted, and things which aimed at practical guarantees for the accomplishment of the reforms. The first were unconditionally rejected; but the practical guarantees must be sought for.

To a remark of Dr. Herbst that the reservation of an understanding "as eventuality follows eventuality," gave rise to anxiety, Count Andrassy replied that it had a very great importance, for it showed the intention of the Powers to lay aside all special interests in favour of the leading principle of the maintenance of peace. The *status quo amélioré* was the basis on which the Powers were striving to bring about a pacification by the common action of Europe.

No. 299.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 25.)

My Lord, *Berlin, May* 22, 1876.

I HAD the honour to receive this day, through Mr. Macdonell, your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant, respecting the proposals submitted on the 13th instant to Her Majesty's Government by the Governments of Germany, Austria, and Russia.

In the absence of the Chancellor, I communicated and left a copy of it with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Herr von Bülow, for Prince Bismarck.

His Excellency renewed the expression of the regret the German Government felt at the inability of Her Majesty's Government to support the policy of the five Great Powers at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 300.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 25.)

(Extract.) *Paris, May 24, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes sent, late in the afternoon of yesterday, to ask me to come to the French Foreign Office, and, on my arrival, he said that Prince Hohenlohe had been with him, and had stated that Prince Gortchakow and Count Andrassy had agreed that the Representatives of Russia and Austro-Hungary at Constantinople should now address a communication to the Porte in the form of an identic note, embodying the text of the Berlin Memorandum for the pacification of the Turkish insurgent districts, and that the German Government adhered to this resolution on the part of the two other Imperial Courts, and were about to instruct Baron Werther accordingly.

The Duc Decazes, as he proceeded to say, answered that in view of the regrettable difference in the matter of this Memorandum which had arisen on the part of England, he had addressed a pressing appeal ("une démarche instante") to the English Cabinet, and that he was now awaiting a reply.

The Duke said that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon him after Prince Hohenlohe's departure, and informed him that he was instructed to say that Count Andrassy would try to retard the intended step at Constantinople, if the Duc Decazes could see some chance of inducing England to draw nearer to the views of the other Powers, at least as to the armistice.

The Duke, as he continued, told the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires that he took note of this, and he promised to give him a speedy answer.

In his communication of the above to the Marquis d'Harcourt, the Duc Decazes said that he had ended by remarking that it was, at all events, well that Her Majesty's Government should be made aware, at once, of these conciliatory dispositions at Vienna, and his Excellency begged me, on my part, to telegraph to your Lordship without loss of time the information which he had just imparted to me.

This I accordingly did.

No. 301.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 25, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the communication which your Excellency intends to make to the Turkish Government upon the subject of the recent outbreak in Bulgaria, as reported in your despatch of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 302.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 25, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith the accompanying copy of a despatch from Mr. Adams,* stating that the Duc Decazes had informed him that Count Andrassy offered to delay the communication to the Porte of the Berlin proposals in the hope

* No. 300.

that Her Majesty's Government might still be induced to join in making a representation to the Porte, and I have to request your Excellency to express to Count Andrassy the appreciation of Her Majesty's Government of the disposition thus shown by his Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 303.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 24, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the language held by your Excellency to the Secretary in charge of the Foreign Ministry at Vienna, as reported in your telegram of the 23rd instant, relative to the improbability of Her Majesty's Government acceding to the proposal made at Berlin for the concentration in specific places of the Turkish forces in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 304.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 26, 1876.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 24th instant, recording the substance of what had passed between the Duc Decazes and Prince Hohenlohe, and subsequently between his Excellency and the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, as stated to you by the Duc Decazes, in regard to the intentions of the Austrian, Russian, and German Governments in the matter of the Berlin Memorandum, and I have to request that you will express to the Duc Decazes the acknowledgments of Her Majesty's Government for this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 305.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1876.*

THE French Ambassador called upon me to-day and said that he had received instructions from the Duc Decazes to speak to me again with respect to the Berlin proposals.

The Duke would not repeat the expression of his disappointment at learning that Her Majesty's Government had decided not to join in the action of the other five Powers, but he could not conceal the apprehensions for the future to which this refusal had given rise. What was now likely to be the next step in the matter? It seemed to him that the Porte would probably refuse to accept the proposals, and, after having given much thought to the matter, he was unable to see anything to be done except to summon a Conference. The Duc Decazes would not, however, propose a Conference unless assured that Her Majesty's Government would agree to it. The Duke, his Excellency said, did not ask for an answer now, but hoped I would think it over, and that I should agree with him in deprecating anything which might have the appearance of mutual distrust among the Powers.

I replied that I saw no objection to the idea of a Conference in principle, but that I thought it would be useless without a basis. If the Powers were not agreed beforehand, there was not much prospect that they would agree any the more when the Representatives met around a Conference table.

Her Majesty's Government had advised the Porte to receive the proposals of the Powers in a conciliatory manner, and not to meet them with an abrupt refusal, and they would continue to hold this language if necessary.

Some further conversation followed, in which I again took an opportunity of expressing my conviction that unless something could be done to detach Montenegro from the insurgents, or effectually prevent their receiving assistance through and from Montenegro, no useful result in the way of pacification could be expected.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 306.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 27, 1876.*

ADMIRAL DRUMMOND is here, having left the squadron at Besika.

No. 307.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 28.)

My Lord, *Rome, May 22, 1876.*

I CALLED upon M. Melegari this morning, and his Excellency at once opened the subject of the non-adhesion of Her Majesty's Government to the measures advocated in the Berlin Memorandum. He repeated the regret which he had already expressed at this decision, adding that he hoped at all events Her Majesty's Government would consent to advise the Porte to accept the armistice, and if they could not join in recommending the other measures, that they would at least say nothing which might be an encouragement to the Turkish Government to reject them. If the Turkish Government did not feel that they would be supported by England in declining to accept the proposals, he had some hope that they might agree to them.

His Excellency went on to make some observations as to the nature of the proposals themselves, which he described as very little in excess of the demands set forth in Count Andrassy's programme. Although they had been presented by the three Northern Powers collectively, they were, his Excellency said, the work of the Russian Cabinet only. Russia would therefore make it a point of honour if the Porte accepted them, to obtain the submission of the insurgents, which her immense influence over them could unquestionably, if she really intended it, enable her to do. He (M. Melegari) was firmly convinced that Russia had no ambitious views at this moment, and that she was sincerely desirous for a termination of the insurrection. It depended, however, upon the attitude of the Porte whether she would have the opportunity of bringing her influence to bear upon the insurgents, and the attitude of the Porte could not but be influenced by that of Her Majesty's Government. If the present proposals were not accepted, some more decisive measures would become necessary, as the five Powers could not submit to having their advice disregarded. General Menabrea, his Excellency said, as well as the Representatives of the other Powers (I believe his Excellency mentioned those of France, Germany, and Austria), had been desired to appeal to Her Majesty's Government in the above sense, but he would be glad if I would also communicate his observations to your Lordship.

I replied to M. Melegari to the following effect: that as he had instructed the Italian Ambassador in London to communicate with your Lordship, I felt that any communication from me would be superfluous; that I, of course, could not undertake to say what might be the answer of Her Majesty's Government to the representations which might be addressed to them; but, speaking my own opinion, I thought that, as regards the appeal to them to support the armistice, Her Majesty's Government might very possibly feel that, in agreeing to do this, they would be advising the Porte to adopt a course prejudicial to its own interests,—whether it would be a fair demand or not, must depend upon the military position of the Turks and insurgents respectively; that as regards the request that Her Majesty's Government would not encourage the Porte to reject the measures proposed, Her Majesty's Government were certainly not likely to take any course which should appear to them calculated to produce additional complications, but that, objecting as Her Majesty's Government did to the plans suggested, it was impossible to expect them to do more than to state to the Turkish Government, if their opinion was asked, that they had better follow the policy which they thought most consistent with their own interests.

Whatever that policy might be, Her Majesty's Government, I said, would certainly not be responsible for it. The Northern Courts, I continued, had invented a totally new system of diplomacy. They drew up their measures together without any sort of consultation with the other Powers, embodied the result of their deliberations in memoranda or notes, which they summoned the other Powers by telegraph to accept, or else to be responsible for any consequences which might ensue from their not doing so. It appeared to me, however, that it was not the Government, who might object, and consequently refuse to be a party to a certain arrangement, who was responsible for the absence of united action amongst all the Powers; but the Governments who adopted this summary mode of proceeding, and I could not help being struck, as I had been on the occasion of the presentation of the Andrassy programme, with the hasty manner in which the Italian Government had rushed into views which they could have had barely time to examine.

As for Russia feeling it to be a point of honour to secure the submission of the insurgents if the present measures were agreed to, this was precisely the same language which had been held respecting Count Andrassy's despatch, and yet what had come of it? If Austria and Russia had really exercised their influence over the insurgents, a pacification would probably have already been brought about.

M. Melegari replied to this latter observation that the difference between the two cases was this: that Russia had only been the seconder and not the originator of the first programme, whereas the present one was her own work. That she wished to have the merit of bringing about the pacification, and she was therefore sure, if her proposals were accepted at Constantinople, to employ all her influence with the insurgents to bring them to terms also.

I asked, with reference to his Excellency's expression, that if the present proposals were rejected, more decisive measures would become necessary, whether this was to be understood as meaning that there had already been an exchange of views as to this eventuality.

M. Melegari replied that there had not been, but he repeated the phrase that the five Powers could not submit to their advice being disregarded.

It was absolutely necessary for the peace of Europe, he said, that the present conflict should be put an end to, to which I replied that it was to be hoped that great caution would be used in the choice of the means to be employed, so that those means should not produce the directly contrary result to that which it was intended they should attain.

M. Melegari said he had already explained to me (as reported in my despatch of the 18th instant) the motives which had induced the Italian Government to accede to the Berlin Memorandum.

In compliance with M. Melegari's renewed request, I consented to telegraph to your Lordship on the subject of our conversation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 308.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 28.)

(Extract.) *Rome, May 23, 1876.*

I HAD the honour to receive this morning your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant, inclosing a copy of your Lordship's despatch to Lord Odo Russell, informing him of the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the Memorandum containing the proposals of the Austrian, German, and Russian Governments for the pacification of the Turkish insurgent districts, and in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, I have read that despatch to M. Melegari, and left him a copy of it.

In expressing his thanks for this communication, His Excellency said that the substance of the reasons assigned by Her Majesty's Government for not adhering to the measures suggested had already been brought to his knowledge by General Menabrea.

He regretted the decision, but he still had a slight hope that the Turkish Government would not reject them; though from a conversation he had had yesterday with the Turkish Minister, he gathered that a refusal was to be expected.

The conversation which ensued was similar to that which took place yesterday, and I need not, therefore, trouble your Lordship with a report of it.

No. 309.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, May* 28.)

Sir, *Bada-Pest, May* 24, 1876.

COUNT ANDRASSY repeated before the Committee from the Hungarian Delegation for the Budget of Foreign Affairs the explanations of the 20th instant to the Austrian Committee respecting the Eastern question and the Berlin Conference.

According to a brief statement in to-day's "Pester Lloyd," M. Falk, acknowledging that Count Andrassy's Eastern policy had not diverged from the principles his Excellency enunciated last year, desired fuller information as to the difference in the attitude of Austria towards Russia and Germany, and towards the other signing Powers; as to the reasons for a Conference of the Ministers of the three Empires; and as to the rumoured raising of the question of altering the Dardanelles Convention.

His Excellency replied by confidentially stating his reasons for seeking a common action with Russia, the next most interested nation, and the support of Germany, which wished well to both countries, and by adding that it was more easy for three than for six Powers to agree in their views, and, when three were in accord, their proposals would be more likely of acceptance than those of one Power. The Conference was rendered necessary by the important change in diplomatic communication, effected by the telegraph, which, in presence of the celerity with which events passed, required that, from time to time, the Ministers of the allied Powers should confer together. It was also desirable, on this occasion, for special reasons; for he could not deny that in so complicated a question as this the principles discussed could not fail to involve a host of details, on some of which agreement between the three Powers could not be beforehand predicted. There had been such differences of opinion, and would be others. The fact that they had been so satisfactorily removed inspired the hope that any future divergence of opinion would be as easily dealt with. As regards the Straits' Convention, it was not even mentioned, and, indeed, no reason for touching the question existed, as soon as the need of foreign protection for the Christians of the Turkish capital ceased.

On Count Ferdinand Zichy expressing a fear that the reforms now agreed to would excite the aspirations of the insurgents, and result in prejudice to the integrity of Turkey, his Excellency sketched the history of the insurrection and the action of the Powers in much detail, and declared his belief that Turkey would accept the proposals of the three Powers, and that the insurgents would also accept them, as soon as they were again convinced that there was no chance of realising their hope of dissensions between the allies.

His Excellency concluded his explanations with some details respecting the refugees, of whom several hundreds of families had announced their wish to return, and with his strong hope of seeing the pacification completely accomplished in the course of the present year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 310.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, May* 28.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, May* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I learn on good authority that, from the papers laid before the Delegations, it appears that only double the usual number of troops—some 8,000 to 9,000 men on the peace footing—is stationed along the Turkish frontier, the increase having been effected by now moving down the autumn troops without bringing away the summer troops, and that no other than the usual distribution and moving of troops seems to be contemplated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 311.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, May* 28.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, May* 24, 1876.

AT a meeting *in pleno* this morning of the Austrian Delegation, at which the Report of the Committee on the Budget of the Foreign Ministry was presented, Dr. Kuranda criticised the want of clearness on certain points and the need of a fixed programme in Count Andrassy's Oriental policy, and declared the chief task of Austria-Hungary's policy should be to uphold former traditions, for the people desired no share in any partition of Turkey. Dr. Giskra was equally decided in his opinion on the question of annexation; and Dr. Herbst, whilst declaring his confidence in the Foreign Minister, naturally withheld it from measures of which he was not informed.

Count Andrassy replied that, although free discussion was desirable, he could only speak under reserve. No Minister could, however, have a fixed programme in presence of continually changing events. He knew not any traditions which could, under all circumstances, be the salvation of Austria. As regards want of clearness, it is impossible that there can be any as to the aims of his policy. They are summed up in the three points of his explanations. Two have been attained; the third, "which I look upon as the main task of Austria-Hungary," said his Excellency, "is the bringing about of such a state of affairs that the periodical recurrence of such dangers as now exist shall be prevented. As regards the means with which the maintenance of the two points and the attainment of the third shall be secured, I am not in a position to give any information." His Excellency concluded by observing that it was the lesser evil for Dr. Kuranda to remain in uncertainty as to those means than for all the world to know them, and in want of a programme, than for him to state one which might hereafter be impracticable or obstructing.

In the course of the debate only two Delegates—one from Dalmatia and the other from Salzburg—raised their voices in favour of annexation. No member of the military party spoke.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 312.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 28.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, May* 28, 1876.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the following telegram has been received from Vice-Admiral Sir J. Drummond, Commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, dated the Dardanelles, 26th May, afternoon:—

"Arrived at Besika Bay this morning with the squadron; proceed immediately Constantinople confer with Ambassador as requested. Communicate by telegraph there until 30th, then Dardanelles."

I am, &c.
(Signed) VERNON LUSHINGTON.

No. 313.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 29, 1876.

I HAVE to call your Excellency's attention to the inclosed extract, containing a translation of a letter published in the "Nord," purporting to have been addressed by the chiefs of the insurgents to M. Wesselitzky, and containing proposals closely resembling those which the three Powers adopted at the Berlin Conference, and I have to request your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain whether this letter is authentic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 313.

Extract from the "Times" of May 27, 1876.

Paris, May 26, 1876.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.—The "Nord" publishes the following letter, addressed by the chiefs of the insurgents to M. Gabriel Wessilitzky:—

"*Bosnia, April* 1876.

"We, the chiefs of the Bosnian insurgents, desire to thank the Great Powers for having testified such a benevolent interest in our struggle. We see the best proof of it in the proposals of reform elaborated by Count Andrassy, which the Great Powers have caused the Ottoman Porte to adopt. The Herzegovinian Voivodes have communicated to us what you transmitted to them through the Chancellor of the Russian Empire, as well as what Baron Rodich has told them in the name of the Austrian Government. These communications equally relate to us, and we can judge from them the importance of the reforms proposed. We understand, just as our Herzegovinian brothers do, that these reforms are to be distinguished, and must be distinguished, from all preceding ones in this respect, that they are due to the initiative of the Great Powers, who will therefore be interested in their execution, and will have the right of exacting it from the Porte. We hope that these reforms, with the additions we point out below, will form the basis of our written rights, and will be a better guarantee to us of our lives, honour, and property than the promises of the Porte. These reforms, if sincerely carried out, will give Bosnia and Herzegovina an independent Government which will assure public order and the well-being of the inhabitants, and prevent new disturbances. Like our brothers in Herzegovina, we are full of gratitude to the great Christian Powers for having undertaken the improvement of our lot. We also truly thank the illustrious statesmen who have so powerfully worked in our cause. We heartily wish to submit ourselves to the resolutions of the Great Powers, and to see the reforms executed at once and fully, that is, point 5 of Count Andrassy's Note included. We specially mention it, because we think that it will facilitate the transference of the property of the Spakiyas to the agriculturists. We are then ready to return to our homes; but we must take the liberty of saying that while we see in Count Andrassy's Note principles now generally adopted we do not see indicated the means of execution. In our desire to terminate our struggle as soon as possible, we take the liberty of submitting to the consideration of the Great Powers the following means of obtaining a sure and rapid pacification:—1. That the Ottoman Porte shall withdraw its troops from our country, retaining only 5,000 at the most in the towns it may select. 2. That the Porte shall prepare all the materials for the reconstruction of the houses, churches, and schools which have been destroyed, and that it shall also furnish the people with the means of living till they can support themselves by their own labours, and that the country shall be exempt from taxes for three years. 3. That the disposing of these materials and resources shall be confided to a Commission, composed as Count Andrassy suggests, instituted by the Great Powers, and entirely independent of the Turkish Government. 4. That the Christians shall have the right of carrying arms equally with the Mussulmans, to be able to defend themselves if attacked, and to assert the civil equality which ought to exist among all subjects of the Ottoman Empire. We know the initiative which you have taken since the beginning of the present struggle, the assistance you have rendered our refugee families, and the zeal you have manifested in receiving and disposing of them. We believe, acting as you do, that you are able to sympathize with us in our trouble and suffering. We therefore appeal to your patriotism, and beg of you to transmit our wishes to the Cabinets of the Great Powers and to urge our interest upon them. You are not bound by this letter, and can in our name express these wishes according to necessity. You have given too many proofs of your devotion to our cause for us to doubt that you will accept these full powers, which will have effect for three months. With profound respect, the chiefs of the Bosnian insurgents.

(Signed) "VOIVODE GOLOUB BABITCH, &c."

No. 314.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 29.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Seraï, May* 19, 1876.

THE local authorities so persistently maintain, and probably report to the Government at Constantinople, that the insurrection in Bosnia is extinct, beyond the existence of a few scattered bands of insurgents in the vicinity of the Austrian frontier, that I feel called upon to emphatically deny the fact. Encounters between the troops and insurgents, unimportant as they may be, are still of frequent occurrence; and only two days since the sole battalion in garrison at Serajevo was despatched to the Kraïna to reinforce the army in the north. This town is, therefore, at the present moment almost denuded of troops, and in case of any tumult or disturbance, there are not even sufficient to maintain order.

The authorities here also state that the inhabitants of the districts of Glamosh and Petrovitza, who revolted about two months ago, have now proferred their submission, and that 50,000 okes of grain have been distributed amongst them for food and seed. I have every reason to doubt the accuracy of this statement, and in any case it is grossly exaggerated. Some few families who were forced against their will to join the insurrection have very likely returned to their homes, but there has, I am assured, been no submission of the mass of the inhabitants. The same spirit seems still to pervade all the insurgents in Bosnia—a resolute determination to carry on the struggle at any cost, rather than again submit to Turkish rule.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 315.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 29.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, May* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a further report I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

Since the date of this report the state of things here has improved, and we have reason to hope that the disturbances that occur every now and then in the Tirnova district will soon cease.

The truth is, my Lord, as I am told the Bulgarians themselves say, they moved too late in this quarter, for had advantage been taken of the moment when the Porte was most occupied with the Herzegovina, the authorities here would have encountered more serious opposition than what they do at present.

All the vilayet, with the exception of the Tirnova district, is quite tranquil.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 315.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, May* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that since my last report the only disturbance that has occurred here has been in the vicinity of Tirnova, near the Balkans, where the following has taken place :—

The Kaïmakam of Tirnova a few days ago ascertained that there were some insurgents in the village of Rahovitza, some five hours distant. Accordingly a number of zaptiehs were dispatched to the spot late in the evening, who discovered twenty-one of these people assembled in a house there, and with papers and Bulgarian flags (in satin) in their possession. All were taken the same night to Tirnova and placed in arrest.

On the following day about 400 of the villagers of Rahovitza, Lescovitza, and Bjilar, headed by two priests, whom they forced to join them, proceeded to Tirnova to rescue the twenty-one in prison, but were met on the road by two companies of infantry, who compelled them to return to their villages.

No sooner had this been effected than about 500 from Gabrova, at the foot of the Balkans, were reported to be on their way to join the 400 that had already been dispersed.

Two companies were immediately sent to meet these. A collision took place, resulting in the death of six of the insurgents and the wounding of several others and one soldier. The insurgents were put to flight, and took refuge in the Monastery of Dranova, where they were followed by the military.

They were summoned to surrender, but refused to do so; accordingly a battalion of infantry, accompanied by some Bashi-Bozouks and two mountain guns, have been ordered to the spot to capture the insurgents.

Insurgents have been arrested at Selwi, in the vicinity of Tirnova, but all is at present quiet there.

The proceedings of these people have been most contemptible, whilst the discipline of the troops is said to be admirable.

I have seen the Governor-General, who is confident that if nothing more formidable presents itself than what has hitherto manifested itself, the tranquillity of the vilayet will be in no danger.

It has been reported that the Varna railway line has been threatened between the stations of Sheytandjik and Shumla Road. The Pasha has placed night patrols on the spot, but as yet nothing whatever has been discovered.

Many of the revolutionary Bulgarians in Wallachia are said to be entering this vilayet, and some have already been discovered and arrested.

From all I see and hear, I am persuaded that there is nothing serious to fear for the moment, nor will there be if the Government acts with promptitude on the occurrence of any disorder. The Porte, however, I think, would do well were it to grant the Pasha more power, so as to enable him to make examples of some of the chiefs of the insurgents; for I am persuaded if this is not done the natives will think that the Government is weak, and the disturbances, which at present are comparatively insignificant, are sure to increase; whereas, if a few examples were made of the chiefs, they would serve as salutary and, I think, successful lessons to the rest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 316.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, May* 22, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a further report addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador respecting the rising in the Tirnova district of this vilayet.

Up to this the authorities have had no great difficulty in putting down what they have encountered, and I am still of opinion that if nothing serious from abroad intervenes the rising may shortly be put down altogether.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 316.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, May* 20, 1876.

THE state of things here has improved since my last report, and the emissaries who have entered the vilayet from abroad find it daily more difficult to stir up the Bulgarians of the Province.

The insurgents from the Balkans having failed in getting the Bulgarians of Selwi to join them, threatened to come down and punish them. Accordingly the day before yesterday I believe about 1,000 were collected at Ducheva, a spot about two hours from Selwi. The Selwi people immediately sent off to Tirnova and Pleona for assistance, and Nedjib Aga, Governor of the latter place, at once hurried off with about 500 men of the reserve.

On their arrival where the insurgents were, they attacked them so vigorously that

they completely routed them in a very short time. The killed and wounded were about 200. Nedjib Aga lost two killed and nine wounded.

I saw the Governor-General yesterday just as he had received this intelligence. His Excellency was in high spirits, and hoped that the disturbances here would soon cease, as the insurgents must now be convinced that they cannot do anything of importance. Indeed, I have myself heard from other quarters that the Bulgarians themselves say that not having taken advantage of the moment when the Turks were taken up with the Herzegovina, it is now too late to hope for any success here.

The so-called Bulgarian Committee of Bucharest, as I said before, are moving, but, as the people here, I am told, say, too late. A number of them (from 100 to 120) are on the opposite coast, between this and Widdin, waiting for opportunities to cross, but the Turks are so much on the alert, night and day, that as yet none have been able to come over.

In this town several have been arrested for going about endeavouring to stir up the Bulgarians to rise, but they have not succeeded in one single instance. The affair altogether is contemptible, and I think we shall shortly hear the end of it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing the Pasha has sent to inform me that the Monastery of Dranova, referred to in my report of the 16th instant, has surrendered without a shot being fired.

R. R.

No. 317.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 24, 1876.*

I HAD an interview with M. de Giers on the 18th instant, when I informed his Excellency of the decision of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the Berlin proposals for the pacification of Herzegovina and Bosnia, as contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 15th instant, recorded in your despatch of that date.

I stated to his Excellency that I was not officially instructed to make this communication, as the official answer of Her Majesty's Government would be probably made through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, into whose hands the Memorandum containing the proposals of the three Powers had been placed, but that, as an act of courtesy, I wished to give him the earliest intelligence of the decision taken by Her Majesty's Government.

M. de Giers thanked me, and stated that he had been already prepared for this communication, and had received it with sincere regret. His Excellency expressed his hopes that, on a more detailed explanation of the views of the three Powers, Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to reconsider their decision.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 318.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 24, 1876.*

AT an interview with M. de Giers this morning his Excellency informed me that he had not received any official communication from Prince Gortchakow for four days, and that he expected a courier to-morrow.

His Excellency was unable, therefore, to give me any information as to the course which the five Powers might take in regard to the measures proposed for the pacification of the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

His Excellency, however, said that the proposals of the Berlin Conference would probably be submitted to the Porte at Constantinople, not in a collective form, but by notes identic in substance.

I communicated to his Excellency your Lordship's despatch of the 15th instant,

addressed to Lord Odo Russell, explaining the grounds of objection entertained by Her Majesty's Government to the proposals of the three Powers at Berlin.

The only observation of note which his Excellency made was in regard to the last paragraph of the Memorandum (which appeared almost to amount to an invitation to the insurgents to reject any terms offered to them), to the effect that it was not intended to make known to the insurgents the nature of the paragraph referred to. The Memorandum was merely to be considered as a confidential communication of their views and proposals to the Governments of England, France, and Italy.

I took the opportunity to assure his Excellency that it was with sincere regret that Her Majesty's Government had found themselves under the necessity of declining to accede to the proposals of the three Powers. Her Majesty's Government, I observed, would most gladly and readily have given their approval and co-operation if they had conscientiously thought that the proposed scheme of pacification would prove practicable, and likely to attain the desired aim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 319.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 24, 1876.*

GENERAL CHERNAIEFF, formerly Governor-General of Turkestan, and till lately editor of the "Russki Mir" (the organ of the Slav party), has lately left this for Servia, and has, I am informed, entered the service of the Prince of Servia.

M. de Giers, in reply to my inquiry, stated to me to-day that General Chernaieff was no longer in the Russian service, and that, consequently, he was free to take service in any foreign State. He observed that this incident was not well viewed by the Imperial Government, for, undoubtedly, it foreboded no pacific purpose, but the Imperial Government were without responsibility, and were powerless to prevent it.

I have the honour to inclose the précis by Mr. Michell of an article from the "Nova Vremia" of the $\frac{7}{19}$th of May, referring to General Chernaieff's employment by the Servian Government, and alluding to the probable active co-operation of Servia in behalf of her Christian brethren.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Précis of Article in the "Nova Vremia" of May $\frac{7}{19}$, 1876.

THE "Novoe Vremia" of the $\frac{7}{19}$th May states that General Chernaieff, the former editor of the "Russki Mir," is now in communication with the Servian Government with a view to his appointment as Commander-in-chief of the Servian army. By last accounts he is busily engaged in studying the military resources of the country. The General proceeded from Moscow to Servia on the 27th April last, and reached Bucharest on the 9th May (o.s.). The "Novoe Vremia" further informs its readers that Servia is quite prepared for war, and great enthusiasm prevails among the people in this direction. The loan has already been covered, several hundred thousands of florins having been contributed towards it in the shape of voluntary donations. It observes, however, that it is impossible to say to what extent these preparations will prove unnecessary after the Berlin Conference; but appears to think that the stronger Servia is, and the stronger the position of the insurgents, the easier will it be to deal with Turkey, and the more comprehensive will be the demands that the Christians of Turkey will be able to put forward. The presence, therefore, of General Chernaieff at Belgrade appears, according to this organ, to be useful, whether Servia declares war against Turkey or not. "With his undoubted military talents, and his sincere and disinterested devotion to the Slavonian cause, the General will be able to group around him all those who are as honestly bent, as he is himself, on the liberation of the Christians from Turkish thraldom. All Russians who understand the importance of the task with which Russia and Europe have now to deal wish him every success."

No. 320.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *Berlin, May 27, 1876.*

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant, I have thought it desirable in my communications with the German Government to indicate the views entertained by Her Majesty's Government in regard to the inconvenience which has again arisen, as in the case of Count Andrassy's note, of a set of articles being submitted by the three Northern Powers, for the acceptance of Great Britain without any opportunity having been afforded for a preliminary consideration of their details by Her Majesty's Government, or for the possible objections of Her Majesty's Government to be considered by the three Governments concerned; and I have explained that Her Majesty's Government attach little importance to forms in such matters, and would have readily accepted the present proposals had they appeared to them to afford a feasible plan for the pacification of the insurgent districts, but that they cannot accept, for the sake of the mere appearance of concert, a scheme in the preparation of which they have not been consulted, and which they do not believe calculated to effect the object with which, they are informed, it has been framed.

I have thought it the more desirable to offer these remarks in general conversation, because an erroneous and somewhat childish impression had gone abroad that Her Majesty's Government had taken offence at not having been consulted in the first instance, or invited to take part in the Conferences which Her Majesty's Government, it is concluded, desires to see transferred at some future period from Berlin to London.

This impression, I am happy to say, has, however, not been shared or credited by the German Government.

In talking on the subject with Herr von Bülow, his Excellency reminded me that the Berlin meeting, proposed by Russia, agreed to by Germany, and accepted by Austria, had been considered as a preliminary discussion only, to enable the two Governments more directly interested to agree on the measures best calculated, in their opinion, to bring about the pacification of the Herzegovina.

As soon as an agreement had been established, it was submitted by the three Powers to the consideration of the Governments of England, France, and Italy; and, in framing their proposals, they had been guided by a sincere desire to adopt only such recommendations as could meet, to the best of their belief, with the assent and support of all the Powers concerned.

It was the wish and intention of the Northern Powers thereby to afford every opportunity to the Governments of England, France, and Italy, for the consideration of the proposals submitted to them, and for the expression of objections and suggestions which Germany and her allies would gladly receive and take into earnest consideration themselves, with the hope of acquiring the support and co-operation of Her Majesty's Government in the work of pacification.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 321.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 30, 187* .

AT an interview which took place yesterday between the German Ambassador and myself, his Excellency expressed anxiety to know whether Her Majesty's Government had advised, or intended to advise, the Porte to resist altogether the proposals about to be made by the five Powers in consequence of the agreement come to at Berlin. He was also anxious to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government had communicated their proposals officially to the Porte, as a communication lately received from the Turkish Government appeared to indicate an intention of refusing even to consider them; a step which, besides its rashness, appeared premature in the actual condition of affairs.

The latter question I answered in the negative, telling his Excellency at the same time that Musurus Pasha had called upon me within a day or two of the date at which

the decision of Her Majesty's Government was taken; that I had found him already acquainted with the substance of the Berlin proposals, and that I had not hesitated to discuss them with him. I had not concealed, I said, my opinion as to the objections which might be taken to them; but I had, while pointing these out, warned the Turkish Government of the necessity of caution and conciliation, and Sir Henry Elliot, who had held the same language at Constantinople, had been approved for holding it. As to accepting the proposed armistice, I thought that was a question which the Porte could alone decide, as no other Power could be sufficiently acquainted with the details of the military and political situation to pronounce confidently which side would gain by a temporary suspension of hostilities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 322.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1876.

THE Russian Ambassador read to me yesterday a letter in order that I might be in a position to understand the impression produced upon the Russian Foreign Office by the language and conduct of Her Majesty's Government.

In this letter, among other things it was said that Sir Henry Elliot, so far from sharing the uneasiness felt by the Russian Ambassador at the recent demonstrations of public opinion at Constantinople, had rather seemed to approve of them, and to think that they might be a first step towards the establishment in Turkey of something like Constitutional Government.

In answer, I observed that I believed Sir H. Elliot to have been quite as much alive as any of his colleagues to the danger of a fanatical outbreak in the Turkish capital; that I had no means of knowing exactly the view he had taken of the demonstrations which led to the fall of the late Grand Vizier, but that, in so far as these demonstrations might be a warning to the Sultan of the general unpopularity which he had incurred by misgovernment, and of the consequent danger in which he was placed, I thought it quite reasonable to regard them as by no means an unmixed evil.

The latter went on to say that Her Majesty's Government had declined to lay before Parliament the correspondence that had passed on the subject of the Berlin proposals, grounding their refusal on the fact that these proposals had not yet been made known to the Porte; but it was clear that their purport was well known at Constantinople; had they been communicated by Her Majesty's Government?

To this I replied that I had certainly conversed with Musurus Pasha on the subject; that I had found him acquainted with the general purport of the proposals before our conversation; that he might have learnt some details from me which were new to him; but I reminded Count Schouvaloff that within three or four days of the communication made to Lord Odo Russell, enough had transpired, through the medium of the continental press, to make it unnecessary to look further for the source of the information possessed by the Porte.

I added that, considering Turkey to be more immediately interested in the matter than any other Power, I could not see any reason why the Representatives of the Porte should not have the earliest information of designs which so deeply concerned that Power.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 323.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 30, 1876,

THE Sultan is deposed, and his nephew Mourad proclaimed. Details are not yet known, but no disturbance or struggle has occurred.

No. 324.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May 31.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Mai, 1876.*

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme circulaire du 21 de ce mois.

Je résume ci-dessous deux télégrammes que nous venons de recevoir d'Ali et Muktar Pachas, et qui corroborent nos objections en ce qui concerne la trève de deux mois à accorder aux insurgés.

Le Muchir commandant nous mande qu'aujourd'hui sept a huit cents insurgés peuvent à peine porter les armes ; que le reste est accablé sous le poids de la misère, résultant de son absence de ses foyers ; qu'ils sont incapables de se réunir sur un même point, que le pourraient-ils qu'ils n'oseraient, après les déroutes sanglantes, tenir tête aux troupes Impériales ; que quatre-vingt-dix sur cent d'entre eux ne veulent plus continuer la rébellion ; que les considérations morales les empêchent seules de mettre bas les armes ; que dans l'Herzégovine ils peuvent à peine paraître par bandes de cinq à dix individus et qu'ils ne le font pas ; qu'il est certain, en un mot, que les rebelles se tronvent à l'heure qu'il est dans l'impossibilité matérielle de faire un mouvement sérieux, à moins d'être activement soutenus par des forces Monténégrines considérables.

De l'Herzégovine, on nous informe que pour cette province seulement les habitants de Gable et de ses environs sont rentrés venant par groupes de la Dalmatie ; que la plupart de ceux du haut et du bas Kérasto sont retournés dans leurs foyers, il y a vingt jours ; que les habitants de Metkovitch ont notifié que plus de 1,500 individus sont prêts à rentrer ; que d'autres sont venus spontanément par la station de —ebgne ; qu'un nombre considérable de familles émigrés du côté de Raguse sollicitent leur retour, et qu'enfin, si cela n'a pas pris jusqu'à présent le caractère d'un mouvement général, c'est que d'une part les subsides n'ont pas cessé d'être accordés, et que de l'autre cette tendance et ce désir, d'ailleurs très-accentués, sont contrecarrés par les Comités. Loin d'avoir été dissous, ces Comités continuent à distribuer des vivres et de l'argent aux bandes d'insurgés recrutées parmi les émigrés et qui s'opposent au retour de l'émigration.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 29, 1876.*

TO continue my circular telegram of the 21st of this month.

I summarize below two telegrams which we have just received from Ali and Moukhtar Pashas, and which corroborate our objections as regards according the two months' truce to the insurgents.

The Muchir in command acquaints us that at the present moment there are scarcely 700 to 800 insurgents who are able to bear arms ; that the rest are overwhelmed by the weight of their misery, resulting from their absence from their homes ; that they are unable to unite at one point ; that even if they could, they would not dare to stand against the Imperial troops, after their bloody defeats ; that ninety out of a hundred of them are no longer desirous to continue the rebellion ; that they are only prevented by moral considerations from laying down their arms ; that in the Herzegovina they can hardly appear in bands of five or ten men, and that they do not do even this ; that in short it is certain that the rebels are at this moment in the physical impossibility of making a serious movement, unless they are actively supported by considerable Montenegrin forces.

From the Herzegovina we are informed that in that province alone the inhabitants of Gable and of its environs have returned in bands from Dalmatia ; that the greater part of those of the upper and lower Cérasto have returned to their homes twenty days since ; that the inhabitants of Metkovitch have announced that more than 1,500 individuals are ready to return ; that others have come of their own accord by way of the station of —ebgne ; that a considerable number of families who had emigrated in the direction of Ragusa are asking to return ; and that, lastly, if this tendency has not yet assumed the character of a general movement, it is because, on the one hand, the subsidies have not yet been stopped, and, on the other, because this tendency and this desire, though very pronounced, are thwarted by the Committees. Far from being dissolved, these Committees continue to distribute provisions and money among the bands of insurgents recruited from the emigrants, and who are opposed to the return of the emigrants.

No. 325.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 31.)

(Extract.) *Paris, May* 30, 1876.

AS far as I can learn, the general feeling among sensible thinking people here is that England has been right in refusing to adhere to the Berlin Memorandum, the terms of which are pretty accurately known now, and they blame what they consider to be the precipitate action of the French Government in this matter.

No. 326.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 30, 1876.

A CIRCULAR has been issued by the Porte notifying the accession of Sultan Murad.

All possibility of resistance and risk of disturbance were prevented by precautions taken by the Porte.

On one side the Palace was surrounded by troops before daybreak, and by boats from ships of war on the other.

Murad was taken by some of the Ministers to the War Office, and there proclaimed Sultan.

The announcement of his dethronement was made to Abdul Aziz by a Pasha, who convinced him that resistance was useless.

It is said that His Majesty showed calmness and dignity.

He was taken in a boat with his family to the old palace; no sympathy was displayed for him, and great rejoicing is universal.

The principal functionaries and heads of Christian communities have yielded homage to the new Sovereign.

No. 327.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.— (*Received May* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 31, 1876.

MY telegrams yesterday were delayed by the closing of the telegraph offices.

No. 328.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government are receiving information from various quarters that the Powers are sending squadrons to reinforce their fleets in Turkish waters, and it may therefore be expected that in the course of a short time a very large naval force will be concentrated in Besika Bay.

Admiral Drummond has already been reminded, as your Excellency will see from the inclosed copies of letters to the Admiralty, of the provisions of the Treaties of 1841, 1856, and 1871, and of the correspondence which passed in 1849 and 1853 with regard to the entrance of ships of war into the Straits of the Dardanelles.

Her Majesty's Government consider that your Excellency should be watchful lest, under cover of protecting the Christian population, or on some similar pretext, a proposal may be made to summon the fleets to Constantinople.

Should such a proposal be mooted, your Excellency will at once inform Her Majesty's Government in order that they may determine on the course which so grave an event as the violation of the Treaty of 1841 may call upon them to adopt.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 329.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 1.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article from the "Agence Russe," of May $\frac{13}{25}$, stating on authority that General Tchernaieff has received no military command in Servia, and that he is simply there as a correspondent for the "Russki Mir," of which he is the editor.

It adds that General Tchernaieff, as likewise other retired Russian officers, induced by their Slavonic sympathies, and in view of serious events in Turkey, are leaving for Servia and Montenegro, and it considers that these are symptoms of an approaching danger "to dispel which there is not a moment to lose."

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 329.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of May $\frac{13}{25}$, 1876.

NOUS sommes à même de déclarer que M. Tcherniaïev, Général en retraite, n'a reçu en Serbie aucune espèce de commandement militaire et qu'il ne s'y trouve qu'en qualité de journaliste, ainsi que le prouve le télégramme de Belgrade signé de lui et que nous avons donné hier d'après "Le Monde Russe," son journal. Ce qui est vrai, c'est que ce général et d'autres officiers Russes en retraite, mus par leurs sympathies ainsi que par la perspective de prochaines conflagrations en Turquie, partent pour la Servie ou le Monténégro, et ils ne sont probablement pas les seuls Ce sont là autant de symptômes d'un très-prochain danger, qui prouvent que pour le conjurer il n'y a pas une minute à perdre.

(Translation.)

WE are in a position to affirm that M. Tchernaieff, who is a retired general, has not received any kind of military command in Servia, and that he is only there in his character of newspaper correspondent, as is proved by the telegram from Belgrade signed by himself, and which we copied yesterday from the "Monde Russe," which is his paper. But what is true, is that this General and other retired Russian officers, influenced by their sympathies and by the prospect of impending conflagrations in Turkey, have left for Servia or Montenegro, and probably they are not the only ones who have done so. These are all symptoms of very imminent danger, and which prove that not a moment must be lost if it is to be averted.

No. 330.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, June* 1.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 31 *Mai*, 1876.

L'AVENEMENT au Trône de Sa Majesté Impériale Mourad V, que vous a annoncé le télégramme d'hier de son Altesse le Grand Vézir, a été proclamé par la grâce de Dieu et la volonté du peuple au milieu de la tranquillité la plus parfaite. Les populations ont salué de leurs vœux unanimes et enthousiastes cet heureux événement. Tous tiennent à témoigner au nouveau Monarque leur sympathie et leur dévouement par des démonstrations publiques. La joie et la satisfaction du peuple se manifestent par des illuminations tant dans la capitale que dans les provinces. Je ferai incessamment connaître à votre Excellence le programme du nouveau Gouvernement.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 31, 1876.

THE accession to the Throne of His Imperial Majesty Mourad V, which the telegram of yesterday from the Grand Vizier announced to you, has been proclaimed by the grace of God and the will of the people, in the midst of the most perfect tran-

quillity. The people greet this auspicious event with unanimous and enthusiastic good wishes. They all seek by public demonstrations to bear witness to the new Monarch of their sympathy and devotion. The joy and satisfaction of the people shows itself in illuminations both in the capital and in the provinces.

I will forthwith inform your Excellency of the programme of the new Government.

No. 331.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1876, 3·15 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government authorize your Excellency to convey their congratulations to the Sultan on his accession to the Turkish Throne.

No. 332.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me to-day and inquired what were the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the change which had taken place in Turkey.

I said that it had taken us by surprise. as it had all the rest of the world; that the revolution had been made by the Turks themselves, and had not to the best of my knowledge and belief, been instigated by any foreign Power; but that, as far as it was possible to form an opinion at so early a stage, I was inclined to think it a fortunate event. The misgovernment of the late Sultan had been notorious aud extreme; and his successor, whatever he might turn out to be, could hardly do worse, and would probably do better.

General Menabrea then asked as to the course which Her Majesty's Government proposed to take in reference to the events which had led to the Berlin note, observing that he took for granted that nothing more would be heard of that document. I said I thought whatever might be done in the end, it was only common justice to give the new Sultan a little time to look about him, and to consider his course under circumstances so difficult as those in which he found himself.

Some general conversation as to the state of the Turkish Empire followed, in the course of which General Menabrea stated it to be the conviction of his Government that no effectual settlement of the troubles in Bosnia and Herzegovina could be arrived at that did not include the grant of autonomy in some shape to these provinces.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 333.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Mostar, May* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, of to-day's date, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, announcing the re-instatement of Ali Pasha in his post here, and reporting the present position of affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 333.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Mostar, May* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the new Grand Vizier has reinstated Ali Pasha in his functions here, and that, as soon as Wassa Effendi heard of the changes in the Ministry, he telegraphed to withdraw his resignation.

I have nothing of importance to communicate this week. The Commander-in-chief is still here, principally occupied, I believe, in making arrangements for bringing to the front ammunition and stores from Klek. The insurgents are committing isolated acts of brigandage wherever it is possible. The return of the refugees, though urged by Baron Rodich, is opposed in every possible way by the Slave Committees in Dalmatia and by the people.

At the present moment, however, there seems to be a general pause in affairs in expectation of what may result from the meeting of the Austrian, German, and Russian Ministers at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

No. 334.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 2.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of my despatch of this day, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting the Decree granting a delay of three months for the payment of private bills.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 334.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, May* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that by a Decree of the Prince of Servia, published this morning, a law has been promulgated staying for three months the execution of all private bills which become due in the interval.

The application by an act of the Executive of such a privilege to debtors by enabling them legally to delay for a limited period of time the payment of their liabilities is known in German jurisprudence by the name of "Moratorium," and was, I believe, enforced at Paris during the last siege of that capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 335.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 2.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of my despatch of this day, addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting the establishment of a censorship for the press in Servia *pro tem.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 335.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Belgrade, May* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that by a Decree of the Prince of Servia, published this morning, the liberty of the press has been suspended, and all home and foreign journals are for the present submitted to a censorship.

There are four political journals printed in Servia, inclusive of the "Official Gazette" and of one supporting the present Administration, and it is, therefore,

probable that the two independent organs will soon cease to appear, and thus reduce the above journals to two.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 336.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, May 26, 1876.*

THE Russian General Chernayeff arrived here a fortnight ago, and after having seen Prince Milan and been introduced to the Society of Belgrade as the editor of a leading Petersburgh journal the "Russki Mir," he proceeded on an excursion to the interior of Servia (Alexinatz).

The General is a popular man in Russia, not in Court circles and in the society of St. Petersburgh, but amongst the far more numerous class of persons, whether in the army or in the civil walks of life, who are sufficiently bold to form political opinions in Russia, and still sufficiently sensible and patient to scorn the revolutionary dreams of secret societies and of Nihilists.

Major-General Chernayeff, who had commanded a Russian detachment in the first Central Asian expedition and conquered Tashkend, got out of favour subsequently and was allowed to retire into private life.

On his return from Alexinatz, he accepted a commission in the Servian army without giving, it appears, time to the Imperial Government to raise any formal objection to this act on his part.

I am inclined to believe that General Chernayeff had been in negotiation with some parties here with that view for some months, and that his opinion of the attitude that Russia will ultimately take in this question had more to do with this bold act on his part than any excessive confidence in the military resources of this Principality.

M. Kartzoff assures me that this act of General Chernayeff's took him quite by surprise, and that he considers this step on the part of the Servian Government as wanting in proper deference to his own Government.

No. 337.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, May 29, 1876.*

I AM assured by competent persons that the military authorities here are of opinion that the preparations undertaken by them with a view to a conflict with the Porte are so far completed that they see no objection to commence hostilities as soon as the Government may feel disposed to do so.

The only thing wanting is the calling out of the militia. Of these about 12,000 men have been sent to Alexinatz and Negotine to take charge of the newly-constructed forts, which are intended to obstruct and, if possible, prevent a Turkish invasion.

Every morning we are alarmed by reports of an immediate convocation of the entire militia, but after hearing most conflicting accounts during the day, it has been hitherto always possible in the end to ascertain that these reports are, at any rate, premature.

It is certainly difficult to admit that all these preparations and the expenses they have occasioned have been incurred without some plan and object in view, and it is therefore probable that they may lead ere long to some hostile acts against the Porte.

In the meantime the Government denies any such intention, but they are possibly merely waiting for some signal or important intelligence.

It is not unlikely that an attempt will be made about Whitsuntide to open new centres of insurrection in Bosnia, whilst the main body of the Servian militia would, in such a case, defend the country from any reprisals on the part of the Ottoman army concentrated at Nish and at Widdin, a force which is said to have been diminished since the commencement of the disturbances in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 338.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 18, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the alarm which had been spread abroad of an intention on the part of the Softas, or students of the Koran, to commence a general massacre of the Christians in Constantinople, has passed away.

There is, however, every reason to believe that the Softas will not rest content with their present success, but that, assisted by many leading men, they are bent on some further political movement, the object of which is to obtain a modified Constitution.

A rumour, true or false, has been gaining ground that Mourad Effendi, the Sultan's next heir, and his brothers, have been placed in close confinement, and this has tended to increase the irritation against His Majesty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 339.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, May 19, 1876.*

WHEN I saw Raschid Pasha yesterday he spoke with much emotion and some indignation of the resolutions which he understood to have been come to at Berlin, the effect of which will be to deprive the Porte of all the advantages gained by Moukhtar Pasha over the insurgents by the successful revictualling of the fortresses, and to check the disposition at present shown by the refugees to return to their homes.

The intimation, that if at the expiration of a two months' suspension of hostilities the Porte was unable to come to an agreement with the insurgents, the Powers would then have to consider what further measures were necessary, must inevitably prove fatal to the hope of such an agreement being arrived at.

As the insurgents will certainly understand this intimation to mean that if they stand firm there will either be fresh concessions in their favour, or else that there will be a foreign intervention in some shape or other; Raschid Pasha looks upon it as an encouragement to them to refuse to agree to the terms which, but for it, there was a good prospect of their accepting.

It is, I think, impossible to deny the force of this argument, and your Lordship will understand the reluctance of the Porte to consent to a proposal in which a future and indefinite interference by foreign Governments is included.

The objections which it at present feels might probably be greatly diminished if an explanation could be obtained from the Powers that the measures they hint at would be directed to the prevention of the extension of the field of hostilities by watching the proceedings of Servia and Montenegro, and ascertaining through agents of their own that those Principalities were observing a neutrality which should deprive the Porte of all pretext for attacking them.

The impression here is general that the insurrection has only been kept alive by the unavowed co-operation of Montenegro, and all impartial reports establish the active share taken in it by that Principality, which the Powers have shielded from the natural consequences of its acts.

No. 340.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1876.*

RASCHID PASHA asks how the Powers can believe that sanguinary collisions will be avoided if, as was proposed at Berlin, the troops in the Herzegovina are confined to some particular place, while both the Mussulmans and Christians are allowed to remain armed.

The Porte has never intimated an intention of disarming the Christians, and judging from the language both of Raschid Pasha and of Hussein Avni Pasha, the

Minister of War, there will not, I think, be any difficulty in obtaining an assurance that it will not be attempted.

The Porte would be glad, if it were possible, that both Mussulmans and Christians should be deprived of their arms, but the habits of the population rendering this impracticable, it seems disposed to insist that while both parties retain their arms, neither of them should be allowed to carry them in public.

The habit of allowing Mussulmans only to carry arms has been productive of great abuses in many parts of the country, and cannot be too soon put an end to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 341.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 19, 1876.

DURING the anxiety which prevailed in consequence of the apprehension of sanguinary disturbances taking place in Constantinople there were daily meetings of the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers at General Ignatiew's, at which there was an exchange of any information received, and any possible measures of precaution were discussed.

It was further thought by some that it might be possible to combine some common plan of defence, and that it would be well for all the Consuls to meet to see if this would be practicable, especially with the aid of the Croats and Montenegrins at the disposal of the Austrian and Russian Ambassadors.

I confess that I felt little inclined to call in the aid of such defenders, but being unwilling to separate from my colleagues, I consented to instruct Sir Philip Francis to take part in the proposed meeting.

I expressed, however, to him my opinion on the subject, in which he fully concurred, and your Lordship will perceive from the inclosed extract of the *procès-verbal* of the proceedings that the good sense of the majority of the Consuls led, as I expected, to the rejection of the well-meant but dangerous proposal.

It seems, from what was said at the meeting, that the number of these savage mountaineers at the disposal of the two Embassies amounts to above 2,000, and no slight alarm was created in Pera when several hundred of them assembled in an open space, and then proceeded to the Russian Embassy.

Many professed eye-witnesses state that they were taken in there for the night as a garrison, but they must be mistaken in this, as General Ignatiew says that he positively refused to admit them, although some received food at the Consulate, and passed the night in the yard surrounding it.

A large proportion of these Croats are engaged in peaceful employment in the neighbourhood, but had been summoned to town by their chiefs, whom they implicitly obey, and their presence added greatly to the danger of a collision.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 341.

Précis of the Procès-Verbal of the Meeting of the Consular Corps at Pera, May 11, 1876, *under the Presidence of Sir P. Francis.*

SIR P. FRANCIS having explained that this meeting had been called at the desire of the Chiefs of Mission, and that its object was to tranquillize the minds of the foreign residents, and to provide measures for their safety, invited his colleagues to express their opinions.

The Italian Consul insisted on the necessity of not increasing the already existing alarm, and states that in his opinion the emergency of the case would be met by an increase of the Consular Guards.

The Russian Consul stated that there are two measures very desirable, viz., to make the members of the different colonies understand that their interests are identic, and, secondly, to appoint some places of refuge.

The French Consul, after remarking that the stationnaires, reinforced by those

which were expected, would form a basis of operations, stated that it was for the Ambassadors rather than for the Consuls to decide on the adoption of measures.

The Mutessarif of Pera having been invited to attend at the meeting, stated that he did not think that there was any danger of disturbances, but that in the event of such taking place, he would trust rather to the military than to the police for repressing them.

On the Mutessarif's retiring, Sir P. Francis accompanied him to the staircase, and returned, saying that His Excellency had stated that he had no fear of public tranquillity being disturbed.

The Russian Consul then proposed the creation of a corps of firemen, but the idea having been opposed by other Consuls was dropped.

No. 342.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 2.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 23, 1876.

WHEN questioned at the Porte about the Berlin proposals, I have said that I had little knowledge of the views of Her Majesty's Government, but that their indisposition to join in them must not be taken as a recommendation to the Porte summarily to reject them.

The five Powers being agreed, the Porte should, I thought, receive the communication in a conciliatory spirit, pointing out what appeared objectionable or unacceptable in the proposals, and any modifications which it might consider necessary.

My colleagues have all expressed the greatest regret at the decision of Her Majesty's Government on separating themselves from the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 343.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 2.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of further despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, reporting the progress of the insurrectionary movements in Bulgaria.

I have made strong representations to the Porte of the evils resulting from the employment of Bashi-Bazouks, and inclose herewith a copy of Mr. Sandison's report on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 343.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Adrianople, May* 16, 1876.

THE general topic of conversation here the last few days is that the Bulgarians of the village of Otleukeui, refusing to surrender, and taking refuge in a church or monastery, were bombarded by the troops under Hafous Pasha, when upwards of 300 men, women, and children were slaughtered.

According to other accounts it is stated that Hafous Pasha sent to demand a parley, and three times summoned the place to surrender, but, his messengers having been killed by the villagers, they were attacked as described. Others, again, state that the insurgents were driven off by artillery with trifling casualties. The last item of intelligence I hear is that the troops have since surrounded the village of Avradano, and that, unless it surrenders, it is feared the inhabitants will share the same fate as those of Otleukeui.

Extraordinary activity is being displayed here by the authorities and others in recruiting, arming, and forwarding to the disturbed districts Bashi-Bazouks and

Circassians. Observing, in the meanwhile, great numbers of these irregulars about the streets, I represented to the Governor-General that it was scarcely safe to the public tranquillity to allow those troops to circulate the streets armed, and suggested that they might be localized somewhere away from the city, as it was generally feared that the slightest provocation might produce unpleasant consequences. The Governor-General assured me that the inhabitants had no cause to fear these troops, and that he had taken every precaution to maintain public tranquillity, but that he could not help keeping the Bashi-Bazouks here until such time as they received their arms and necessaries, when they were immediately ordered off to the front. I do not hear of any disorders having been committed by these troops in Adrianople, but I am assured that, once outside the city, they gave themselves up to all kinds of violence, and to the firing on women and other defenceless people in the villages and roads in this vicinity.

It having been several times brought to my knowledge that gunpowder was openly and freely sold by authority at a particular shop, not far from this Vice-Consulate, to Turks, and refused to Christians, I made inquiries on the subject, when the Governor-General admitted the fact of such an establishment for the sale of that article to recruits and volunteers, but denied that it was refused to Christians. I then told him that an English gentleman had applied to this office for a supply to defend himself in case of necessity. He raised no objections to this request, but in the meanwhile I have it from that gentleman that the sale of gunpowder had been refused the son of the German Vice-Consul.

Frequent arrests are being made of Bulgarians in the different quarters of this city—strangers to the place. Among these arrests is one Hellenic subject, a respectable tradesman in Ali Pasha Bazaar, suspected of forwarding to Yamboli a case of firearms, knowing the same to be for the use of insurgents.

The news of the Russian Vice-Consul in Philippopoli having been insulted, though repeated, is not generally confirmed. Some say if he was not insulted, he is trying his best to provoke it by his conduct. Yesterday morning, my Russian colleague left for Constantinople with all his family, but I am told that, previous to starting, his luggage was opened and searched at the railway station.

I was informed, in confidence, yesterday morning, that the insurrection was spreading in the direction of Yamboli and Eski-Zaara, and the authorities in Bulgaria had asked for military reinforcements. This news I telegraphed immediately to your Excellency, but I have no confirmation to-day of this intelligence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 343.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Adrianople, May* 19, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, to the credit of the local authorities be it said, a more satisfactory state of public feeling exists in Adrianople since addressing you on the 13th and 15th instant, when disturbances and disorders appeared imminent. Whether this change is owing to the presence of a strong military force, or to the reported successes of the troops under Hafous Pasha in the disturbed districts, does not appear, nevertheless it may be presumed both circumstances have contributed to the present improved condition of affairs.

In the surrounding country unhappily such is not the case, and reports continue to reach me of acts of insubordination, excesses and disorders by the Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians and even armed Gypsies, who, it is stated, rob, plunder, kill, and levy black-mail on peaceable people. Unheard of cruelties and tortures, on the other hand, it would seem, are also practised by Bulgarians on women, children, and other defenceless Mussulman villages. How far the atrocities said to have been committed on both sides are true or exaggerated, I have no means of ascertaining.

It is believed that the Ottoman Government contemplate establishing both here and at Philippopoli military camps, or at all events to keep strong garrisons in these places, and that Abdul Kerim Pasha, the Generalissimo of the Turkish army, and Chefket Pasha, just arrived from Constantinople, will organize and carry out those intentions. Abdul Kerim Pasha and the Governor-General will go to Philippopoli to-day.

A war trophy in the shape of a wooden canon made from the hollowed-out trunk of a tree bound round at intervals with iron hoops and mounted on ordinary cast wheels taken from the insurgents at Otlukoi, is on view in the Konak yard, an object of no small merriment and derision to the Turks here.

Inclosure 3 in No. 343.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, May* 23, 1876.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instruction, I strongly represented to Raschid Pasha the injudicious employment of Bashi-Bazouks in Bulgaria, for which the Porte alone was responsible.

His Excellency stated in reply that Vizirial orders were sent yesterday directing the authorities in Bulgaria not to resort to the services of Circassians as irregulars. I thought proper to tell his Excellency that this was doing away with one class of Bashi-Bazouks only, and that there were just as strong grounds for giving similar orders in regard to the common Bashi-Bazouks, who were equally brutal and licentious.

His Excellency did not seem to think, however, that the matter rested any longer with the Porte, now that Abdul Kerim Pasha, the Generalissimo, was entrusted with the sole direction of everything connected with the military operations in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 344.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 25, 1876.

I INFORMED your Lordship that the Sultan was stated to have placed his heir apparent, Murad Effendi, and his brothers, in strict confinement, although the fact then was not fully ascertained.

Its truth is, however, now beyond doubt, and the Princes were not even allowed to go to the Mosque on the Fridays, which was a measure of extreme rigour.

The Sultan afterwards became aware of the effect which was being produced upon the public by this act, and intimated to the Princes that they were at liberty to have their apartments, but they now decline to avail themselves of it.

They can, however, see nobody except the persons of their own households, who are placed about them by the Sultan.

I cannot say that His Majesty is altogether without cause for distrust of his nephew.

It has been known for some time that the Prince would be ready to proclaim a Constitution on the day of his accession, and he has certainly been in communication with some of its most influential advocates; and that many of these, if they cannot obtain their object regularly and through the Government, are prepared to attempt to depose the Sultan, and to place Murad Effendi in his place is, I believe, almost beyond all doubt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 345.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, May* 25, 1876.

ALTHOUGH immediate confidence was restored when the demonstration of the Softas brought about the dismissal of Mahmoud Pasha, there is every appearance of the movement being the prelude to something far more serious.

I have been at much pains to ascertain the objects and intentions of the Softas,

who may at present be regarded as to a very great degree representing the intelligent public opinion of the capital, if not of the Empire.

Their wish, I might perhaps say their determination, is to obtain the entire reform of the administration, which alone can save the Empire from the total and speedy ruin with which it is threatened.

Mahmoud Pasha was looked upon as directly responsible for a large share in the present desperate state of affairs; it was he, they say, who during his first administration encouraged the Sultan in all his caprices, being only anxious to retain His Majesty's favour, and totally indifferent to the welfare of his country.

The Sovereign having once been taught to consult nothing but his own humour, no subsequent Minister has been able to restrain him; those who attempted it being invariably dismissed within a few weeks.

The reproach is, no doubt, in a great degree well founded.

The first object, therefore, of the Softas was to procure the dismissal of the obnoxious Vizier, and in this they were successful, although they did not succeed in procuring the nomination of Midhat Pasha, who, as the champion of the reforming party, is the only man in whom much confidence is placed.

Mehemet Rushdi Pasha, though enjoying general respect as an incorruptible and patriotic statesman, is not supposed to have the power to obtain from the Sultan the concessions and limitations of his authority that are considered necessary, and which might possibly still preserve his Throne, if, indeed, this is not too late.

The word "Constitution" is now in every mouth, without there being any well defined understanding what it means, except that it signifies the establishment of some popular or national control over the present purely arbitrary will of the Sovereign.

The Softas, knowing themselves to be supported by the bulk of the nation, Christian as well as Mussulman, in calling for this control, will not, I believe, desist in their efforts till they have obtained it, and should the Sultan resolutely refuse to grant it, an attempt to depose him appears to me almost inevitable.

Texts from the Koran are circulated with a view to proving to the faithful that the form of Government sanctioned by it is properly democratic, and that the absolute authority now wielded by the Sovereign is a usurpation of the rights of the people, and a contravention of the Holy Law.

Both texts and precedents are appealed to to show that allegiance is not due to the Sovereign who neglects the interests of the State.

The disaffection runs through every class, and no one now thinks of trying to conceal his opinion.

Among the porters in the streets, the boatmen on the Bosphorus, and Pashas who have filled or are now filling the very highest posts, civil or military, the same language is held, and I should be at a loss to name a single quarter in which the Sultan could with any confidence look for support against a well-organized attempt to depose him.

Generals and Admirals declare that both officers and men of the two services share the feelings of the public, and that they would certainly not act against the Softas in any movement they might make.

Relying upon this, some of the more adventurous believe that they could carry out a revolution without bloodshed or disturbance; but the risk is in truth far greater than they calculate, for if the Minister of War, either from feelings of loyalty or from motives of personal ambition, were to stand by the Sultan, any revolutionary movement must be followed by frightful consequences.

At present the harmony between the Mussulmans and Christians is perfect, and a thorough understanding exists between the Softas and a large portion of the Greeks of Constantinople; but if serious disturbances were once to occur, religious fanaticism might very quickly be excited.

No. 346.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, May 25, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, copy of a further report to Her Majesty's Ambassador on the rising in this vilayet, and dated the 23rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 346.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, May 23, 1876.*

SUBSEQUENTLY to my last report of the 20th instant, nothing of much consequence has occurred in this vilayet.

The Authorities, however, are kept constantly on the move by reports which are purposely spread, and which turn out to be greatly exaggerated or devoid of all foundation.

For instance, a very serious movement was reported at Travua between Tirnova and the Balkans. Some troops were sent to the spot; a few disaffected persons were found, but who at once submitted.

A collision on Monday last between a body of insurgents and some troops at a village called Yenikeni, in the district of Tirnova, in which about 100 of the insurgents were killed, is to-day reported in a bulletin of the Government paper here, but not having heard of it from any other quarter, I cannot vouch for the truth of it.

There is a grave matter here which I should bring to your Excellency's knowledge, and that is the arming of the Mussulmans and Circassians in the vilayet, and the letting loose of the latter on the Bulgarians simply reported to be in revolt.

The lawless character of these Circassians is notorious—they are not to be trusted at any time; to employ them therefore in the way I have stated at the present moment, is, in my opinion to drive many, who have hitherto remained quiet, to revolt.

This fact has only been known here the last two days, and it has already created a very bad feeling in the place, as every one knows how difficult it will be for the Authorities to withdraw the arms these men have been provided with.

As regards the arming of the Mussulmans, a Frenchman who returned yesterday from an inland town, states that whilst he was there an order arrived from Rustchuk for the Mussulmans to arm at once, and this order was accompanied by an intimation to the effect that those who should be found unarmed would be punished.

I am told that identical orders have been issued to other districts; if, therefore, the present rising, which was said to be dying out, assumes greater dimensions, I do not think it will be a matter of surprise.

Respecting the Monastery of Dranova which the Pasha said had surrendered without firing a shot: I am now informed from other quarters that the Monastery was battered down by the two guns sent there, that there was comparatively a considerable number of killed and wounded, and that some 30 were taken prisoners. The affair, however, I am told has had an effect favourable to the Government.

I have now reason to think that the Governor-General receives reports that are not to be relied upon.

The Commissioner sent by the Porte to Tirnova left this for that destination yesterday morning; should I hear of his proceedings I will at once report to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 347.

*Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received June* 2.)

My Lord, *Buda Pesth, May* 26, 1876.

ON receiving yesterday your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant, I proceeded to Buda-Pesth, and at an interview to-day with Count Andrassy, I read to his Excellency your Lordship's despatch to Lord Odo Russell of the 19th instant, and, at his request, I gave him a copy of it.

When I had finished reading the despatch, his Excellency said that he would answer it in writing through Count Beust, but, in the meanwhile, there were several points on which he would make some verbal observations. In the first place your Lordship seemed to be under an impression that Her Majesty's Government had been invited to give an immediate answer to the telegraphic summary of the Berlin proposal transmitted to them by Lord Odo Russell. This, he repeated, as he had formerly stated to me, was entirely incorrect; but he supposed, as the French and Italian Ambassadors appeared to have no doubt that the proposals would be at once accepted by their respective Governments, Prince Gortchakow may have intimated a wish to receive an answer before his departure from Berlin.

I said Her Majesty's Government were not, however, singular in believing that an immediate answer was expected, as the Duc Decazes had expressed regret that the time fixed for the arrival of the answers had rendered it impossible to communicate with London before forwarding that of the French Government. As his Excellency also said that Her Majesty's Government are alleged to have been offended at the proposals having been drawn up without their concurrence, I answered that, whatever they may have thought of the form in which their assent to the Memorandum had been applied for, your Lordship had stated in the House of Lords that it would not have prevented the proposals it contained being accepted, if they had appeared likely to effect the purpose for which they were made.

Count Andrassy then said that he entirely differed from the views of Her Majesty's Government with respect to the proposed armistice, as it would, in his opinion, be more beneficial to the Porte than to the insurgents. The latter would, he believed, become weaker during a prolonged suspension of hostilities, having no power of cohesion or means of increasing their numbers, and having hitherto depended, in a great degree, for their supplies of food and ammunition on the capture of Turkish convoys; whereas the Turkish forces would have time to recover from their late fatigues, to fill up their battalions, and to improve in many essential points their military position. Another important reason, however, for concluding such an armistice is the effect it would have on the action of Montenegro. He said the Senator Petrovich had brought a Memorial to Berlin containing many impracticable suggestions, and Prince Nicolas had, therefore, been informed that the only means by which he could obtain any advantage from the question would be by employing his influence with the insurgents for the pacification of the Provinces; as, if he rendered an important service to Turkey, he would be placed in an exceptional position, which might enable him to obtain favours from the Porte which other neighbouring States or Principalities could not claim on the same grounds. Prince Nicolas is, therefore, prepared to act in this manner if the armistice is agreed to, even if Servia declares war, but if a refusal of the Porte to grant the armistice should give Servia a reasonable pretext to support the insurrection, the force of circumstances will oblige Montenegro to make common cause with her. It is only, therefore, by the Porte agreeing to a suspension of hostilities and taking immediate measures for promoting the return of the refugees that the two Principalities can be effectually separated.

His Excellency then went on to say that the armistice had been fixed for two months in order to ensure its success, there being reason to hope that such a long suspension of hostilities will give confidence to the refugees, and induce them to return to their homes, on the Porte taking measures to satisfy them that the assistance promised will be at once afforded to them. Fifteen days will suffice to prove whether this expectation is well founded, and whether the armistice is likely to have the results expected from it; and, should it fail to effect the pacification of the provinces, there is nothing in the last paragraph of the Berlin Memorandum to show that the new measures to be concerted will necessarily be directed against Turkey. He concurred in your Lordship's opinion as to the demoralizing effect of unlimited almsgiving, observing that all that can be expected of the Porte is that it should provide for the

* Substance of this despatch was telegraphed.

immediate necessities of the refugees, and furnish them with materials for rebuilding their houses; and, on my objecting that the only way in which they could provide for themselves would be by cultivating the land, and that several months at least must elapse before any harvest could be reaped, he admitted this difficulty, but maintained that the returning population could not be worse off than they are at present, and that, though they might have to undergo privations, they would eventually, without any great expense to the Porte, recover their normal position.

With regard to the concentration of the troops at places to be agreed upon, he said it was essentially necessary that they should not be immediately brought into contact with the Christian population. I therefore made the same observation to him which I had formerly done to Count Mulinen at Vienna, as to Vassa Effendi having tendered his resignation because Moukhtar Pasha had refused him troops to protect the refugees who had already returned, and as to Haidar Effendi having failed in his negotiations with the Bosnian emigrants, because he had no regular troops at his disposal; and his Excellency answered that the general cantonment of the troops at fixed stations need not prevent small detachments of regular soldiers being employed, where their services appeared to be necessary for the protection of the Christian population.

Though it was proposed that the insurgents should retain their arms, he said it did not follow that they were to return to their villages as an organized armed force; but, as the Turkish Ambassador had admitted that it would be impossible to disarm the Turkish population, the Christians must also, as a mere act of justice, be entitled to carry arms.

His Excellency therefore earnestly trusts that Her Majesty's Government will see the expediency of the Porte assenting to the suspension of hostilities, and accepting, as a basis for future arrangements, the proposals of the Powers.

I propose returning to Vienna to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 348.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 2, 1876.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 26th ultimo, reporting the arguments urged by Count Andrassy to induce Her Majesty's Government to accede to the proposals set forth in the Berlin Memorandum, I have to request that you will express to his Excellency Her Majesty's Government's appreciation of the courteous anxiety manifested by the Austro-Hungarian Government to secure their co-operation in this matter; but you will at the same time inform him that the question has been fully considered by Her Majesty's Government in all its aspects, and that they have not been indifferent to the considerations to which Count Andrassy refers.

They cannot, however, depart from the line of conduct which it appears to them they are bound to pursue, and they are consequently unable to do more than repeat their sincere regret at being unable to act in concert with Austria-Hungary and the other Powers who have concurred in the Berlin proposals.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 349.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 30, 1876.*

AS Count Andrassy had said to me, during my recent visit to Pesth, that it had been alleged that Her Majesty's Government was influenced in their rejection of the Berlin proposals by resentment at their having been only asked to adhere to them, after they had been finally agreed upon by the three Imperial Governments, I have thought it expedient to acquaint Count Mulinen, for his Excellency's information, with the observations which your Lordship has made upon the subject in your despatch of the 19th instant.

It may be hoped that the decision which Her Majesty's Government have con-

sidered it necessary to take on the present occasion, may lead the framers of the Berlin Memorandum to feel the inconvenience of committing themselves hereafter to a course of action in questions of general European interest until they have ascertained how far it will meet with the approval of Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 350.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 30, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 25th instant, I have requested Count Mulinen, who is in temporary charge of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs here, to convey to Count Andrassy the expression of the appreciation of Her Majesty's Government of the disposition shown by his Excellency in offering to the Duc Decazes to delay the communication to the Porte of the Berlin proposals, in the hope that Her Majesty's Government might be induced to join in making a representation with respect to them to the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 351.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Paris, May 31, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes said to me this morning that he was anxious to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government upon the new situation caused by the deposition of the Sultan, and his Excellency suggested whether the present might not be a favourable moment for an attempt to establish a closer understanding between all the six Powers upon the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 352.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.) *Paris, May 31, 1876.*

WITH reference to any preceding despatch, I should mention to your Lordship that, in his conversation with me this morning, the Duc Decazes said that he supposed that a short time must be given to the new Government at Constantinople to determine on their policy, but at the same time he declared his opinion to be in favour of the conclusion of an armistice and of direct negotiations being opened between the Porte and the insurgents, and between it and Montenegro, and he stated that he had sent instructions in this sense to the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

He observed that there were naturally certain differences among the Powers upon the Eastern question, and he thought that it might be better, for the present, that the new Ottoman Government should be left to attempt to settle its own affairs.

No. 353.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

(Extract.) *Paris, June 1, 1876.*

AFTER the deposition of the Sultan Abdul Aziz and the elevation to the Throne of Mourad V had been officially notified to the French Government by Sadyk Pasha, the Duc Decazes, as he has informed me, instructed the French Ambassador at Constantinople to declare to the new Ottoman Government that the Cabinet of Versailles accepted the

notification; that they trusted that the Porte would avail itself of the new order of things to make an attempt of itself to settle the internal affairs of the Empire, and that the new Sultan would see the advantage of making this attempt, of doing what was in his power to stop the further effusion of blood, and of thus striving to bring about the pacification of the disturbed districts.

The Marquis d'Harcourt, as the Duke informed me this morning, is now directed to communicate to your Lordship the views of the French Government, and to make known to you the tenor of the instructions which have been sent to M. de Bourgoing. He is also, the Duke said, to endeavour to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government on the present crisis.

With regard to the impression produced upon this Government by the events at Constantinople, the Duke said that he had received the intelligence without distrust, and that he considered it likely to be a simplification rather than a complication of the Eastern question.

No. 354.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 2, 1876.*

BY my telegram of yesterday I authorized your Excellency to congratulate the Sultan on behalf of Her Majesty's Government upon his accession.

You are, therefore, empowered to take all other steps which may be necessary in regard to His Majesty's recognition.

Your letter of credence to the new Sultan will be prepared forthwith, and will be despatched when the Royal Letter notifying the Sultan's accession is received.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 355.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 3.)

My Lord, *Paris, June 2, 1876.*

THE Duc Decazes asked me to-day if I knew when and in what form Her Majesty's Government were going to recognize the new Sultan.

I replied that I had as yet received no information from your Lordship upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 356.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 4.)

My Lord, *Rome, June 1, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a question was put to the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday in the Chamber of Deputies by Count Rasponi relative to the deposition of the Sultan, and the political consequences which that event was likely to have.

M. Melegari replied that the event alluded to by Count Rasponi occurred in the night of the $\frac{29}{30}$th ultimo. The news had been communicated by a laconic telegram from the Grand Vizier. No details had been received. By what influences the Sultan had been dethroned were unknown; it was therefore impossible for the moment to appreciate the consequences and the bearing which the event might have.

Telegrams from the Consuls announced that the deposition of the Sultan had been received with the greatest enthusiasm. In the meantime the Government had already given orders to the fleet to be ready to start for the East.

I inclose herewith an extract from the "Italie," containing a report of the question put to M. Melegari and of his Excellency's answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 356.

Extract from "L'Italie" of June 1, 1876.

CHAMBRE DES DÉPUTÉS.—SÉANCE DU 31 MAI, 1876.

Présidence de M. BIANCHERI, *Président.*

LA séance est ouverte à 2 heures ¾.

Le procès-verbal de la dernière séance est lu et approuvé.

Il est donné communication du résumé des pétitions.

Quelques congés sont accordés.

M. Corte présente un rapport.

L'ordre du jours appelle le vote d'ensemble des projets de loi approuvés dans la séance d'hier.

M. Massari fait l'appel.

(Trois membres de l'Ambassade Birmane entrent dans la Tribune de la Diplomatie. Ils sont accompagnés du Sénateur Cerutti. Les Birmans sont en tunique blanche, cheveux relevés en chignon au sommet de la tête, mouchoir en mousseline roulé autour de la tête, aigrette au côté, gants blancs.)

M. le Président annonce que M. Rasponsi Gioacchino désire interroger le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères sur les derniers événements de Constantinople.

M. Melegari, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, dit qu'il est prêt à répondre.

M. Rasponi.—Selon des télégrammes récents, le Sultan Abdul Aziz a été détrôné.

La chute d'un Souverain à la suite d'une révolution est toujours grave; mais elle est très-grave aujourd'hui dans la crise que traverse la Turquie. L'opinion publique est alarmée. Elle se demande quelles peuvent être ses conséquences politiques.

L'orateur demande des renseignements sur le caractère, la portée et les effets de ce grave événement.

M. Melegari, Minisire des Affaires Etrangères. (Vif mouvement d'attention).—L'événement qui fait l'objet de l'interrogation de M. Rasponi s'est passé dans la nuit du 29 au 30 courant. Nous n'avons pas encore des informations détaillées. Il est donc impossible pour le moment d'en apprécier les conséquences et la portée. L'événement a été communiqué par un laconique télégramme du Grand Vizir. Plus tard, nous avons reçu des dépêches de nos Consuls, qui nous annoncent que les populations ont accueilli avec enthousiasme la déposition du Sultan.

C'est tout ce que nous savons pour le moment. Nous ignorons par quelles influences le Sultan a été détrôné et les conséquences que peut avoir cette révolution. En attendant, je suis bien aise d'annoncer que le Gouvernement a déjà donné l'ordre à l'escadre de se tenir prête à partir pour l'Orient, afin de protéger, au besoin, la vie et les biens des Italiens et aussi des personnes qui, sans être Italiens, sont placées sous la protection de notre drapeau.

M. Rasponi remercie le Ministre des éclaircissements qu'il a donnés. Il désirerait toutefois savoir si de graves désordres se sont produits.

M. Melegari, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.—Les télégrammes reçus se bornent à dire que l'événement a été accueilli avec enthousiasme par les populations Turques.

L'incident est vidé.

(Translation.)

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.—SITTING OF MAY 31, 1876.

M. BIANCHERI, *President.*

THE sitting is opened at 2.45 P.M. The report of the last sitting is read and approved.

A résumé of the petitions is communicated. Some Members are granted leave of absence. M. Corte presents a Report.

By the order of the day the whole of the Bills approved in yesterday's Sitting are considered.

M. Massari calls over the names.

(Three Members of the Burmese Embassy enter the tribune of the diplomatic

body. They are accompanied by Senator Cerutti. The Burmese wear a white tunic, hair fastened in a chignon at the top of the head, handkerchief of white muslin rolled round the head, an aigrette at the side, white gloves.)

The President announces that M. Rasponi Gioacchino desires to question the Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the most recent events at Constantinople.

M. Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs, says that he is prepared to answer.

M. Rasponi.—According to recent telegrams the Sultan Abdul Aziz has been deposed. The fall of a Sovereign in consequence of a revolution is always serious; but it is especially serious during the present crisis in Turkey. Public opinion is alarmed. It is asked what the political consequences may be. The speaker asks for information as to the character, the extent, and the effects of this grave event.

M. Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs.—(Keen attention). The event which forms the subject of M. Rasponi's question took place in the night of the 29th to 30th instant. We have as yet no details. It is, therefore, impossible at present to appreciate its consequences or its extent. The event was communicated by a brief telegram from the Grand Vizier. Later we received despatches from our Consuls announcing that the people had received the news of the deposition of the Sultan with enthusiasm.

That is all we know for the present. We are ignorant of the influences by which the Sultan has been deposed, and of the results which this revolution may have. In the meanwhile I am glad to announce that the Government has already given orders for the squadron to be in readiness to start for the East, in order to protect, if necessary, the lives and property of Italians, or of persons who, though not Italians, are placed under the protection of our flag.

M. Rasponi thanks the Minister for the explanations he has given. At the same time, he would like to know whether serious desturbances have taken place.

M. Melegari, Minister for Foreign Affairs.—The telegrams received merely state that the event has been received with enthusiasm by the Turkish population.

No. 357.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant, transmitting a copy of a despatch addressed to Lord Odo Russell, informing him of the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the Memorandum containing the proposals of the three Powers for the pacification of the Turkish insurgent districts.

I had an interview to-day with M. de Giers, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and in conformity with your Lordship's instructions, I read to his Excellency the above named despatch addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, and at his Excellency's request placed a copy of it in his hands.

His Excellency stated that he should transmit the communication to Prince Gortchakow at Ems, and in His Highness' absence he refrained from offering any observations further than that of expressing his sincere regret that Her Majesty's Government had been unable to accept the proposals which had been agreed upon at Berlin by the Governments of Austria, Germany, and Russia, and to which the French and Italian Governments had since given their adhesion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 358.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 30, 1876.*

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram of the 27th instant, stating that the rejection by the Porte of the Berlin proposals appeared certain, I have the honour to

state that, in a conversation I had with M. de Giers, his Excellency expressed a confident hope that they would be accepted by the Porte, with perhaps some reservations.

The opinion generally entertained here in official circles is that, if the Porte should summarily reject them, no influences could hold back Servia and Montenegro, or prevent them from joining the insurgents, and that a general rising in the other provinces would follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 359.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 5.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 31, 1876.

CABOULY PASHA called on me yesterday morning to announce to me the important intelligence he had just received of the dethronement of the Sultan, and the proclamation of Murad Effendi as his successor.

I have just seen M. de Giers, who informed me that this measure was entirely the act of the Grand Vizier and the Ministry.

He said that they had placed Murad Effendi in the Seraskiat, defended by troops, and had then proceeded in the night to the Palace of the Sultan. They represented to His Majesty his incapacity for continuing the government of the country, and the necessity of his retirement, and they requested him to follow them.

His Majesty did so, without any resistance, and he was taken to the Seraglio, and placed under confinement there.

It appears that the treasure of the Sultan, which is said to be considerable, and to have been kept in his palace, has fallen into the hands of the Government.

These were the only details of this important event which has yet reached the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 360.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 5.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 31, 1876.

PROFITING of the permission accorded in the concluding paragraph of your Lordship's despatch of the 19th instant, I communicated to-day to M. de Giers the views therein contained of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the Berlin proposals, and of the motives which had induced Her Majesty's Government to decline to give their assent to them. I had already, before receiving that despatch, expressed a personal opinion in the same sense, and I thought it very advisable that it should be confirmed by your Lordship's authority.

M. de Giers merely observed that he would report the substance of my communication to Prince Gortchakow, adding that his Highness deeply regretted the abstention of Her Majesty's Government from co-operating with the other Powers, and expressing a hope that an opportunity would soon offer which would re-establish the perfect concert among the Six Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 361.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, May 26, 1876.*

A TELEGRAM, of which the inclosed is a copy, was received yesterday at the Turkish Consulate-General from Moukhtar Pasha, announcing a Turkish victory on the 23rd instant. The Slavs, of course, deny its correctness, and say that the combat resulted in an insurgent success, and in considerable loss on the side of the Turks. The Russian Consulate here telegraphed yesterday to Cettigné for information; but I am assured that no answer has as yet been received, and that there is no probability of its being forthcoming before the departure of the steamer which takes this despatch. I am, therefore, inclined to think that fortune has again favoured the Turks, although I am sure that the numbers of the insurgents and of their losses have been exaggerated by the Turkish authorities.

It is asserted here that the insurgents have made up their minds to reject all overtures, as well for an armistice as for a pacification, and that the only amelioration in the conduct of the war consists in an undertaking by both parties to discontinue the mutiliation of the killed and wounded.

It may well be that the report of the intention of the insurgents to continue the struggle "to the bitter end" is simply a ruse, devised to influence the Porte in its decision respecting the new propositions of the Powers.

General Jovanovics left Ragusa yesterday morning to inspect the troops quartered at the various forts and garrisons between this and Metcovics; and will afterwards proceed on a like tour of inspection to Cattaro and Budua.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 361.

Moukhtar Pasha to Danish Effendi.

(Télégraphique.) *Mostar, le* $\frac{13}{25}$ *Mai*, 1876.

LES insurgés, d'un nombre supérieur à 2,000, campés à Banjani, ont été le $\frac{11}{23}$ Mai occuper les hauteurs situés en face des villages Tchernitza, Kuludi, et Zagradie, district Gaczko, dans l'intention d'enlever le bétail conduit à la pâture. A peine les rebelles ont été aperçus qu'une vigoureuse attaque dirigée par un nombre suffisant de troupes les a mis en déroute. Poursuivis par nos soldats jusqu'à la hauteur de Kobila-glava, leur reserve laissée dans cette position et un renfort au-dessus de 1,000 hommes arrivant par la droite, ont été également dispersées et forcées de s'enfuir vers les montagnes de Banjani, en laissant 150 morts et autant de blessés. Dans ce combat auquel les habitants des bourgades sus-mentionées ont aussi pris part, nous n'avons eu, en tout, que cinq morts.

(Signé) AHMED MOUKHTAR.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Mostar, May* $\frac{13}{25}$, 1876.

THE insurgents, in number above 2,000, encamped at Banjani; advanced on the $\frac{11\text{th}}{23\text{rd}}$ May to occupy the heights opposite the villages of Tchernitza, Kuludi, and Zagradie, in the district of Gaczko, with the intention of carrying off the cattle taken to pasture. Hardly were the rebels in sight, when a vigorous attack by a sufficient number of troops put them to flight. They were pursued by our soldiers as far as the height of Kobila-glava, and their reserve left there, together with a reinforcement of over 1,000 men who came up on the right, were both dispersed, and compelled to fly in the direction of the mountains of Banjani, leaving 150 killed and as many wounded. In this combat, in which the inhabitants of the above-mentioned hamlets also took part, we had only five killed altogether.

No. 362.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

(Extract.) *Ragusa, May 28, 1876.*

THE news that Her Majesty's Government has refused to subscribe to the decision taken at Berlin has produced a profound impression here; and although Ragusa is, in itself, an inconsiderable town, it is at this moment the centre of Slav agitation, and the head-quarters of an organization which controls or stimulates Panslavist sentiments and demonstrations throughout the greater part of Dalmatia.

The impression I refer to is, I think, a salutary one. I derive my opinion from a conversation I have had this morning with some four or five of the most active sympathisers with the insurrection, and I am sure that their language was dictated by no desire to be agreeable to me.

They were unanimous in their appreciation of the sagacious prevision of Her Majesty's Government as to the futility of the new proposals, whatever their real nature may be.

On my putting the direct question as to what were the present intentions of the insurgents, they replied that nothing was positively known. It was clear, however, that their best policy would be to arrange with Russia and Montenegro that the armistice, if agreed to, should not begin till July, and should then last for two months, by which time the return of the inclement season would forcibly suspend military operations, and give more time for Turkey "to bleed to death."

I have spoken of the "salutary" impression produced by the action of Her Majesty's Government, because from this conversation I could see that my interlocutors, ardent sympathisers as they are with the insurgent cause, had compared with real respect the frank and independent conduct of England with the feeble temporising policy adopted by certain other Powers.

No. 363.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, May 28, 1876.*

M. DE WESSILITZKY passed through Ragusa this morning on his way to Cettigné to communicate to the Prince of Montenegro the Berlin Memorandum.

I am told that he will not remain in Cettigné, but will proceed to Bosnia in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 364.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, May 30, 1876.*

WASSA EFFENDI, the President of the Commission of Reforms, has arrived at Ragusa on his way to Trebigné to confer with the members of the Commission there relative to the return of the Herzegovinian refugees.

He tells me that from the district of Metcovics a considerable number of families have already returned, as your Lordship will have heard from Mr. Consul Holmes. At the same time he does not speak in a very satisfied tone of the way in which the Austrian local authorities second his efforts.

Even the Slavophils and Russians here are willing to admit that large supplies of grain are already at the disposition of the Turkish authorities for the support of the refugees and the sowing of the arable land.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 365.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, June* 5.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, May* 29, 1876.

THE Committee of the Hungarian Delegation on the Foreign Office Estimates has issued its report, which, in a retrospect of Eastern policy, records that between the Powers there are partly diverging interests; that however, in spite of them, peace has "as yet" been maintained; that Austria will favour the re-establishment of the *status quo* so long as the vital interests of the Monarchy will allow, and that the *status quo* can only be secured by the accomplishment of internal reforms in Turkey. But the report adds that, "in presence of the incalculable course of events, no promises were asked from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for such promises might, at a decisive moment, have to give way to higher considerations."

It concludes by noting the gravity of the situation, by supporting the present policy, "so long as the vital interests of the Monarchy may not demand another policy," and by giving the sanction of the Delegation to their maintenance by every means which the development of events may render necessary.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 366.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, June* 5.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, May* 30, 1876.

IN yesterday's meeting of the Austrian Delegation, Dr. Sturm brought forward the resolution of the Committee on the War Office Estimates, that an economy of 2,262,000 fl. (about 200,000*l.*) should be effected by postponing till March next the usual calling out in October of the annual contingent of recruits for the infantry and chasseurs, and that of this saving a sum of 1,075,400 fl. (about 100,000*l.*) should be applied to improving the diet of the soldier.

Some days ago an article from the pen of a military expert appeared in the "Pester Lloyd," defending the feasibility of this mode of economy, and averring that it would, from a military point of view, in no wise impair the fighting power of the army. But these views were combatted in the Committee by Count Andrassy and others on military grounds. It was, however, clear that such a measure would not be acceptable, merely on the ground of not being prejudicial to efficiency in times of peace; and the course of yesterday's debate showed that political reasons rendered it desirable not even in appearance to lessen the military strength of the Empire.

Count Andrassy now opposed the resolution by stating that, although he had in Committee declared his belief that peace would be maintained, he had in no wise guaranteed what the future might bring forth. Only two things can secure peace—a peaceful policy, and an army ready to do battle; and there are only two means for a Sovereign and the nation to hold an enemy morally in check—the number of the combatants, and the leadership of the army. As the latter does not in itself suffice, and is always a matter of uncertainty, it behoves a nation to ensure the former. Moreover, this was not a suitable moment to propose economy of this kind. He had never stated that Austria could have no enemies. No one razes a fortress, because it is not actually besieged. The War Budget was the normal one, and neither he nor the War Minister could acquiesce in such an economy even for so desirable a purpose as that of improving the condition of the ranks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 367.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 5.)

My Lord, *Berlin, June* 1, 1876.

EDHEM PASHA, the Turkish Ambassador, received the first intelligence of the deposition of the Sultan, and of the elevation to the throne of Mourad, on the morning

of the 30th ultimo, which his Excellency communicated to Herr von Bülow forthwith.

He also announced at the same time the suppression of the insurrection in Bulgaria by the Turkish authorities.

I asked Herr von Bülow what impression these startling events at Constantinople had produced in Berlin.

His Excellency said he thought it too soon to form and pronounce an opinion on them yet, considering that details were wanting, and that it would take some days before we could know how the change had been received in Turkey; all things considered, however, he could not but hope that it would be productive of good, and lead to an improved state of things in Turkey.

The Berlin press I notice, takes a favourable view of the change, and the funds have slightly risen in consequence.

The attitude of England is generally approved by the liberal press in Germany.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 368.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Berlin, June 3, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 29th ultimo, calling my attention to a letter published in the "Nord" purporting to have been addressed by the chiefs of the insurgents to M. Wessilitzky, and containing proposals closely resembling those which the three Powers adopted at the Berlin Conference, and requesting me to ascertain whether the letter is authentic; I have the honour to state that the result of my inquiries leads me to believe that it is so, because its authenticity has never been called in question or denied by the official press of the three Northern Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 369.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 5, 1876, 3 P.M.*

AN inquest has been held on the late Sultan by nineteen medical men, among whom were Dr. Dickson, physician to Her Majesty's Embassy, the doctors of the Austrian and French Embassy, and others of high standing, Turkish, Greek, and Armenian. They certified unanimously that the death was the result of suicide, and that the deceased Sultan had opened the veins of his arms with a pair of pointed scissors. Dr. Dickson tells me that neither he nor any of his colleagues entertain a doubt that the act was voluntary.

Since the Sultan's deposition all arms and cutting instruments had been kept out of his reach, but yesterday morning he asked for a pair of scissors to cut off his beard. A small pair was given him, and he then turned his attendants out of the room and locked the door. His Majesty was buried in the mausoleum of his father, Sultan Mahmoud, with every mark of respect.

No. 370.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *June 5, 1876.*

THE Greek Government have officially recognized the new Government in Turkey.

No. 371.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 5, 1876.

AS a considerable foreign naval force will soon be assembled in Turkish waters, it appears to Her Majesty's Government very desirable that the Powers whose fleets will be in company should give such instructions to the Admirals and Commanding Officers as may prevent any discussions arising under the provisions of the Treaty of the 13th of July, 1841, beeween Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey, respecting the Dardanelles and Bosphorus.

I have, accordingly, to request your Excellency to inform the French Government that Her Majesty's Government have called the attention of the Admiral in command of Her Majesty's Naval Forces in the Mediterranean to the provisions of that Treaty, as confirmed by the Treaties of 1856 and 1871, and instructed him to be careful to avoid any occasion of contravening them.

Her Majesty's Government would suggest that the attention of the Admiral or other Senior Officers commanding the other fleets should be similarly called to this Treaty and would be glad to learn that instructions in this sense had been given by the French Government, in order that there might be a complete understanding on the matter between the British Admiral and the Naval Commanders of the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 372.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 5, 1876.

WITH reference to my letters of the 13th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the accompanying copy of a despatch which his Lordship has addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the passage of the Dardanelles by foreign men-of-war.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 373.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 6.)

My Lord, *Mostar, May* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of to-day's date addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting a recent combat at Tchernitza, and that preparation is being made for another expedition to Nichsich, also regarding the difficulties which exist as to the return of the refugees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 373.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, May* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, on the 23rd, a large band of insurgents attacked a body of troops engaged in cutting wood at Tchernitza, in Gatzko. Reinforcements were sent to their assistance, and in the evening the soldiers

* Identic despatches were addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.

† No. 328.

returned to their quarters, according to telegrams from Gatzko, victorious. Probably the simple truth is, that, having fallen into an ambuscade, they managed to extricate themselves, and that the insurgents naturally retired as soon as this happened. The affair is not important, but it may be remarked that this is, perhaps, the first instance of the rebels attacking the troops without the inducement of any convoy to pillage.

Moukhtar Pasha is preparing for another expedition to revictual Nichsich. In his last attempt he merely succeeded in conveying enough provisions to suffice the garrison for a short time, but took nothing to the starving inhabitants.

On the the 22nd my Austrian colleague, M. Wassitch, went to Metcovich to see what was being done to facilitate the return of the refugees. He reports that, up to the present moment, no steps have been taken to put their houses in a habitable condition, and that nothing has been done in any way beyond mere promises to encourage them to return. I have spoken to the Governor-General on the subject, and I see that on all sides a want of confidence prevails which prevents anything from being accomplished. The Turks hesitate to incur the expense of rebuilding houses before the Christians absolutely return to occupy them, and the latter will not return while they see no preparation made to receive them. The authorities state that they have all the materials for rebuilding the houses ready, but no one seems to know in what depôts they are collected; also that they have plenty of provisions to supply to the people, but instead of being on the spot, they seem to be warehoused at Ragusa and Kleck, and certainly not very available for immediate distribution. Ali Pasha, however, assures me that very shortly some villages will be prepared to receive the refugees, and Wassa Effendi goes to-morrow to Metcovich and Ragusa to inspect matters personally.

No. 374.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 6.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, May* 27, 1876.

THE Grand Vizier having called upon me yesterday, I inquired what the Porte proposed to do about the Berlin proposals.

His Highness answered that until they were officially communicated and their nature fully known no decision would of course be come to, but his language was such as to convince me that they will not be entertained.

He was perfectly confident that if the Powers abstained from encouraging expectation or hopes of their future intervention, the Turkish Government, when left alone, could bring the insurrection to an end within two months.

A wrong course had been followed throughout, for the overwhelming force which would have rendered resistance vain had never been dispatched to the scene of insurrection, and the troops had, moreover, been sent to the wrong direction.

I asked Mehemet Ruschdi Pasha whether it would not be possible for him to come to a direct understanding with the Prince of Montenegro without the intervention of any foreign Power.

He showed no inclination to open himself to me on this subject, but the little that he did say rather tended to convey the impression that he intended to attempt it.

He had, he said, telegraphed to the Prince, who was extremely pleased with his communication, the nature of which, however, he did not disclose.

No. 375.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 6, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the advice given by your Excellency to the Porte respecting the spirit in which the proposals agreed upon at Berlin should be received, as reported in your despatch of the 23nd ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 376.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 6, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the representation which your Excellency made to the Porte of the evils resulting from the employment of Bashi-Bazouks, as reported in your despatch of the 24th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 377.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 6, 1876.*

THE French Ambassador communicated to me on the 2nd instant the substance of the instructions which had been sent by telegraph to the French Representative at Constantinople on the accession of the new Sultan.

The Duc Decazes had informed the Comte de Bourgoing that the French Government did not feel called upon to express any opinion on the events which had brought about the change of Sovereigns; they were ready to accept the new Ruler without distrust, and without prejudging his intentions. They trusted, however, that he would consider it material to his own honour to inaugurate his reign by the cessation, or at least the suspension, of bloodshed. Desirous as he must be to spare his people the horrors of civil war, his first endeavours, it was to be hoped, would be directed towards removing the present unfortunate misunderstandings, and re-establishing peace in all parts of his Empire. The French Government would welcome with sympathy the efforts which he might make with this object, and hoped to see his course guided by a spirit of conciliation and moderation.

The Duc Decazes agreed with M. de Bourgoing that the presentation of the note containing the proposals for the pacification of the Herzegovina must be deferred. It would be impossible to address to a new Executive, the disposition and intentions of which could not be thoroughly known, representations and advice which had seemed to be demanded by a state of affairs in which the present Sultan had had no part. Europe was bound to allow Mourad V some days, at least, of credit and confidence.

I expressed a general acquiescence in the views thus put forward by the Duc Decazes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 378.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June 6, 1876, 7·15 P.M.*

I HAVE to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have been requested by the Austro-Hungarian Government to join them in counselling moderation at Belgrade.

I have accordingly to instruct you to act in concert with your Austrian colleague in recommending Prince Milan to pursue a more peaceful policy.

No. 379.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 6, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the course pursued by your Excellency, as reported in your despatch of the 30th ultimo, in addressing a communication to Count Mulinen in the sense of my despatch to your Excellency of the 19th of May.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 380.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 6, 1876.*

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to Count Andrassy, as reported in your despatch of the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the rejection by Her Majesty's Government of the Berlin proposals.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 381.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby, June 6.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Juin, 1876.*

JE vous transmets ci-dessous le texte d'une lettre adressée, d'ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, par son Altesse le Grand Vizir aux Commissaires Impériaux en Bosnie et en Herzégovine:—

"M. le Commissaire,

"Sa Majesté Impériale notre auguste et bien-aimé Maître a voulu inaugurer son règne juste et régénérateur par une mesure éclatante qui corrobore ses sentiments de clémence et de haute sollicitude pour ses peuples. Le Sultan Murad V a, avant tout, tourné ses regards compatissants vers ses sujets égarés de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, et daigné accorder amnistie pleine et entière à tous les insurgés.

"Un délai de six semaines, à dater de la proclamation par vos soins du contenu de cette dépêche télégraphique, leur est accordé pour qu'ils fasssent leur soumission, rentrent chez eux, exposent leurs griefs et leurs sollicitations aux autorités locales, qui ont reçu l'ordre d'y prêter l'oreille avec justice et bienveillance, et de prendre toutes les mesures pour assurer le bien-être des familles qui ne sont pas encore rentrées. Le Commandant a été en même temps prévenu de cette amnistie générale afin de faire cesser partout les opérations militaires pendant les six semaines, et permettre ainsi aux insurgés de se mettre en toute sécurité en relation avec les autorités pour faire leur soumission. Il est bien entendu que les mouvements nécessités par le ravitaillement de Nichsich seront exceptés de cette suspension des opérations.

"Votre Excellence voudra donc bien, à la réception de cette dépêche, s'empresser d'en faire savoir la teneur, au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale, notre auguste Maître, à tous les habitants de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, par une proclamation spéciale rédigée en langue Turque et Bosnienne, afin que les malheureux qui sont depuis si longtemps frustrés de la douceur de leurs foyers sachent une fois pour toutes que notre magnanime Souverain est prêt à leur ouvrir les bras, à ensevelir le passé dans un profond oubli, et à leur faire largement profiter des bienfaits de son règne."

Veuillez bien faire part à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la teneur de cette lettre.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June 5, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT herewith the text of a letter addressed by His Highness the Grand Vizier, by order of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, to the Imperial Commissioners in Bosnia and in Herzegovina:—

"His Imperial Majesty our august and beloved Master has wished to inaugurate his reign of justice and regeneration by a striking measure which confirms his sentiments of clemency and great solicitude for his people.

"The Sultan Mourad V has, before all, turned an eye of compassion towards his misled subjects in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and has deigned to accord a full and complete amnesty to all the insurgents. An interval of six weeks, dating from the Proclamation through you of the contents of this despatch, is granted them to make their submission, to return to their homes, to expose their complaints and demands to the local authorities, who have received orders to listen to them with justice and kindness, and to take all measures to ensure likewise the welfare of the families who

have not yet returned. The Commander-in-chief has been informed likewise of this general amnesty in order to put a stop to the military operations in every direction during the six weeks, and thus to allow the insurgents in all safety to have access to the authorities for the purpose of making their submission.

"It is understood that the necessary movements for the revictualling of Nichsich will be excepted from this suspension of operations.

"Your Excellency will, therefore, on the receipt of this despatch, hasten, in the name of His Imperial Majesty our august Master, to make the tenor of it known to all the inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, by a special Proclamation, drawn up in Turkish and Bosniac, so that the unhappy people who have been for long deprived of the pleasures of home may know once for all that our magnanimous Sovereign is ready to receive them, to bury the past in profound oblivion, and to enable them to profit largely in the benefits of his reign."

You will communicate to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of this letter.

No. 382.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 7.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, May 27, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further report, transmitted yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, on the disturbances in this vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 382.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, May 26, 1876.*

FROM the account given by the local authority here, the insurrection is almost entirely suppressed, whilst from the reports we hear elsewhere the contrary would appear to be the case.

Between the two it is difficult to judge. I am, however, inclined to think that the state of things is not so bad as is made out here.

But what is condemned by everyone and has created panics in many places is the arming and employment of Circassians, which I had the honour to mention in my despatch of the 23rd instant.

Notwithstanding the defence offered by the Governor-General of the measure, it is most undoubtedly calculated not only to prolong the present difficulties but also to drive many, who have hitherto remained quiet, to revolt. Those men can not be kept under any sort of control, and whenever an opportunity offers, they do not hesitate to take advantage of it, and the consequence is that we are daily hearing of the grossest acts of violence on their part.

It was this morning reported to the Director-in-chief of the Varna Railway that a large number of these people were hovering about and threatening the line near the station of Ishiklar, and that all the Company's men there had absolutely refused to work.

The affair was communicated to the Governor-General by the French Consul, and two companies of regulars have already been despatched to the spot, but I am inclined to think that the report will turn out to be greatly exaggerated if not devoid of foundation.

The present tactics of the insurgents appears to be to cause false reports to reach the Pasha, so as to have bodies of troops sent about in such a way as to at last cause the authorities not to give credit to the reports they receive, and thus enable the insurgents to effect *coups de main*.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 383.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 7.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, May* 30, 1876.

THE Governor-General called at this Consulate yesterday, and informed me that from telegrams he had just received from the disturbed district, he was happy to say that the rising was all but put down; indeed, the people who have suffered, being convinced that all is over, are applying to the Government for assistance to enable them to repair their houses, and other property that has been damaged; and the Pasha told me that he had ordered this assistance to be given.

On Saturday last, some of the troops that were sent down the railway line to look after the Circassians, as reported in my despatch of the 26th instant, to Her Majesty's Embassy, returned with fifteen Circassians who had been seized committing depredations in villages near the line. These men, the Pasha says, had nothing to do with the present movement, but were evidently taking advantage of the opportunity, and will be at once tried and punished as severely as the laws permit.

At Gabrova two insurgent chiefs were executed; and the Pasha states, that this had such an effect that there was not a single insurgent to be seen there after.

At Trojan also, where there were a greater number of insurgents, the intelligence of the execution (at Gabrova), immediately produced a state of tranquillity that has reigned there ever since.

The Bulgarians here continue to assert that they have been duped a second time by the Agents of a Power from which they had reason to expect quite otherwise; indeed, these Agents (Russian) have for some days ceased to go among them; and I am told that they are very downcast from the turn affairs have taken here.

Since penning the foregoing, the intelligence of the accession to the Throne of Sultan Murad V has reached this, and been promulgated. The whole place is in a state of exultation; and this is sure to have a beneficial effect in every direction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 384.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.— (Received June 7.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June* 4, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in 384.

Major Gonne to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Vienna, June* 3. 1876.

I HAVE the honour to submit the change made in the present year in Servian military organization. I am indebted to Mr. White, the British Consul at Belgrade, for a translation of the Government Decree, dated 24th February, 1876.

*Staff.**—A General Staff for the whole army forms a department in the War Office of Belgrade, divided into three sections.

Section 1 undertakes army organization, mobilization and administration, together with the management of the Military Academy.

Section 2 is geographical, topographical, and statistical, and undertakes the "intelligence" branch of the service.

Section 3 takes charge of military archives, and regulates promotion, appointment, and leave of absence.

Although the Chief of the Staff, with the rank of General of Division, is Inspector and Director-General, each section has its own Director.

* Under the Chief of the Staff, General Zach.

In section 3 this officer is the Military Secretary.

To each division a Staff Officer is permanently attached, who may, under exceptional circumstances, be assisted by a Second Staff Officer.

The Divisional Staff Officer ranks with the Sectional Director, to whom he reports. He is supposed to master every detail within his district.

To each brigade is granted a Brigade Major.

Pay is voted in time of peace to the following officers:—

1 Chief of the Staff.
4 Sectional Directors (the 4th being Director of the Central Offices).
10 General Staff Officers.
7 Divisional Staff Officers.
14 Officers attached to divisions.
19 Brigade Majors.
5 Supernumeraries.

These officers have a distinguishing uniform, and are selected from the standing army. The Prince reserves to himself the power of appointing the officers ranking as Generals.

The regulations regarding the Academy and military instruction are unchanged.

No officer is supposed to be appointed to a staff appointment till he has passed his examination as Captain on the Staff.

The Chief of the Staff, however, may make exceptions, and in point of fact many foreigners accept these posts.

The standing army consists in peace time of 2 battalions of 4 companies,* equal 800 men per battalion (at the present moment there are over 2,000 men in the two battalions, and these are very inferior soldiers) 2 squadrons of 80 men, equal 160. In other particulars as stated in Captain Cook's book.

The six divisions mobilized are supposed to place in first line—

80 Battalions of infantry and 35 squadrons.
22 Batteries of field guns, 8 centim.
18 Mountain batteries, 4 ditto.

On a former occasion I pointed out that, however good in theory, practically the Servian army, which affords instruction to the militia, was of little or no account. Since then foreign officers, including General Tchernaieff, have given the advantage of their advice to the Minister of War (and Chief of the Staff), General Zach, who is a very superior energetic officer; but the officers, as a rule, have had no experience in handling masses, and I feel convinced that it will require months rather than weeks to make the armed strength of Servia anything better than a mob; in truth, the country people would be far more formidable in guerilla warfare than in regular formation, and only as irregulars would they, in my opinion, be able to contend against the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. S. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 385.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 7.)

(Extract.) *Paris, June 6, 1876.*

IN the course of conversation the Duke Decazes told me that he had recently received, through the Austrian Embassy here, an urgent appeal from Count Andrassy to press the Prince of Servia to abstain from hostile proceedings against the Porte, and that he had, in answer, shown the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires strong instructions to that effect which he had already sent to the French Agent at Belgrade.

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* It was found impossible to officer four battalions.

No. 386.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 7, 1876.*

THE Austrian Ambassador communicated to me on the 4th instant a telegraphic despatch, which he had received from Vienna, to the following effect:—

The Government of Austria-Hungary have decided, in agreement with the Governments of Russia and Germany, to postpone the execution at Constantinople of the measures proposed at Berlin; but they considered that an agreement on a line of conduct was more than ever necessary, in view especially of the menacing attitude of Servia. Russia and Austria had instructed their Agents at Belgrade to counsel moderation, and the Austrian Government would be glad if the English Government would do the same.

I saw his Excellency to-day at the Foreign Office, and told him that Her Majesty's Government could scarcely expect that any advice which Great Britain could give would meet, under present circumstances, with the same attention at Belgrade as the counsels of the other Powers, and if those counsels were seriously pressed, the action of Her Majesty's Agent would scarcely be required.

I said that I would, however, give directions to Mr. White to act in concert with his Austrian colleague in advising the Prince of Servia to pursue a pacific policy, and added that, by the last accounts received from Belgrade, it appeared that the danger of hostilities was deemed less imminent, and Prince Milan was intending to address a congratulatory letter to Sultan Mourad on his accession.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 387.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 7, 1876.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna,* giving an account of an interview with the Austrian Ambassador, at which his Excellency requested me, on behalf of his Government, to authorize you to join your Austrian colleague in counselling moderation at Belgrade, and I have accordingly to instruct you to act in concert with your Austrian colleague in the manner desired.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 388.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 7, 1876.*

THE Austrian Ambassador has just informed me that his Government have decided on rejecting the idea of a Congress to consider the means of remedying the present state of affairs in European Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 389.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 7, 1876.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 22nd ultimo, reporting a conversation which had passed between M. Melegari and your Excellency on the same day, on the subject of the non-adhesion of Her Majesty's Government to the measures advocated

* No. 386.

in the Berlin Memorandum, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to M. Melegari on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 390.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 7, 1876.*

I HAVE received your despatch of the 23rd ultimo, reporting that you had read to M. Melegari my despatch to Lord Odo Russell, informing him of the decision of Her Majesty's Government upon the Berlin Memorandum, and that you had left his Excellency a copy of it; and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 391.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 8.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, May 26, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that new arrangements had latterly been made for the collection of the "Aashr" or tithe on agricultural produce. The system of farming the tithes was entirely abolished, and officials styled "Aashr Mudiri" had been appointed in all the sandjaks at a salary of 2,500 piastres a month each, with a considerable staff of subordinates, to assess and collect the tax. Instructions, however, were received yesterday by telegraph from Constantinople to annul this arrangement, and it was publicly announced in the "Idareh Medjliss" or Administrative Council, that the tithes would be immediately offered for sale at public auction as heretofore. This will undoubtedly produce a very bad impression in the country.*

The Commission of Control continues to hold its sittings daily, but its labours have as yet borne no fruits.

No decision has yet been come as regards the "Bedel-i-Askerish," or tax in lieu of military service, although much time has been spent in discussing the matter. It was announced that the tax was only to be paid between the ages of 20 and 40, but the Government persists in demanding the same gross amount as heretofore, and it is naturally rather difficult to reconcile such conflicting instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 392.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 8.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, June 2, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st ultimo, I have now the honour to give to your Excellency the substance of the speech which M. Falk, as reporter of the Committee, made on the 31st ultimo, in presenting to the Hungarian Delegation their Report on the Estimates for the Foreign Ministry.

M. Falk said that the position of the Eastern question was decidedly worse than in last autumn. It is true that the integrity of the Ottoman Empire is untouched, and the insurrection is localised for the present, but when such a situation of affairs does not improve it is a sure sign that it has become worse. This fact fills with grief every sincere friend of peace, and especially every Hungarian, for if attention be paid to the voice of cool, calculating judgment, and heed be given to the real interests of the Austrian Empire, there is no combination so reassuring and satisfactory as the

* See No. 412, page 248.

continuance of the Ottoman Empire. The insurrection has lasted a year nearly, and all the phenomena of the struggle strengthen our wish to preserve that Empire, for not a single political fact on which to base a new organization can be found in the course of the conflict. In whosever interest it may be that the nucleus of a new organization should be imported into the Balkan Peninsula from without, and that there a foreign nation may find a footing, and the points of fruition between it and us may be multiplied on our southern and south-eastern frontiers, it certainly is not in the interest of Austria-Hungary. Neither can our Monarchy play the part of a creator to bring order out of chaos; the political position and economical relations of the Empire loudly forbid such action. Nor have we either need, or desire, or capability of acquiring new territory. Under such circumstances, the Foreign Minister rightly took the maintenance of the integrity of Turkey as his starting-point, and the removal of causes of disturbance as his aim; and then, of two ways to reach his object, he rejected that of the traditional policy of supporting Turkey at any cost, which involved an abandonment of neutrality in favour of benevolent moral support and subsequent action on the side of Turkey. Otherwise, "those who to-day wave, at least in outward show, as some say, the white flag of neutrality, but who secretly give moral, and, perhaps, material aid to the insurrection, would then have gone into a hostile camp and openly assisted the insurgents;" and in that case our Report to-day would not have contained "even the small consolation that the European peace has not yet been disturbed, at any rate up to the present moment." The Foreign Department chose the other course, of removing all suspicion on the part of Turkey of sinister designs behind the good offices of the Powers, and of seeking from her the creation of the indispensable conditions of her preservation. "In order that this benevolent mediation should not rouse the susceptibility of the Porte as yielding to one Power or the fears of the insurgents as to its honesty, the friendly alliance of Russia, usually considered the opponent of the integrity of Turkey, was sought; and in order that the possibility of a friendly arrangement might not be excluded in case the views and, perhaps, the interests, of these two Allies should differ, Germany was invited, as likely to show an equally good feeling towards each." No preconceived theoretical project was elaborated; but the facts which became evident without their furtherance,—"at least without the open furtherance of one party, and entirely against the will of the other,"—were taken as a basis, and the endeavour was made, not to carry out what might be most advantageous for each party, but to find a mean, which should, nevertheless, prevent an open conflict of interests. The idea was no doubt sound, but as yet no acceptable basis of pacification has been found, for that of the famous Berlin Conference still hovers in suspense. At this second stage, England declined to be a party to the proposed note. "For us this step of England can raise no anxiety, neither can it for those who do not cloak other secret plans under their pacification projects. If the union of the three Emperors remains true to the original idea, England will certainly never disturb their action. But if one or the other Ally should be unfaithful to it, those who have acted straightforwardly will find a powerful ally in that insular Kingdom, who will not allow Turkey to be worked out for objects inconsistent with the European balance of power and the peace of the world."

I should add that this speech was greeted with enthusiasm at many points, and that in conclusion M. Falk called upon the Delegation to give full confidence to Count Andrassy, as capable and sincerely desirous of guarding the real interests of the Empire.

As the "Pester Lloyd" generally contains well-informed articles on the Eastern question, it may be safely assumed that his speech is well founded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 393.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 8.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, May* 31, 1876.

MY despatches by the last messenger will almost have prepared your Lordship for the event that took place yesterday, and which has surprised no one who had given attention to the course which things were taking.

That an attempt to dethrone the Sultan was about to be made had become almost a matter of certainty, although its success would depend upon the part that would be taken by the Minister of War.

It ultimately proved that, although Midhat Pasha was the undoubted originator and organizer, Hussein Avni Pasha played the principal part in carrying out the plot, and that the two had acted in perfect concert.

The arrangements for ensuring success and for preventing the probability of disturbance, were made with consummate skill and foresight, but it is still a matter of wonder that a plot, of which so many were in the secret, and the existence of which was indeed generally, although vaguely, known to the public, should not have reached the Sultan.

It can only be explained by the fact that in the capital there was hardly a man who did not desire his overthrow, nor a friend disposed to warn him of the dangers.

The Sheikh-ul-Islam, the highest authority that Mohammedans can appeal to, had declared the lawfulness of deposing the sovereign.

The two following questions had been submitted to him by the Ulema:—

"If the first of the true believers gives signs of madness and of an ignorance of political matters; if he spends the public money on himself in excess of what the State or the nation can grant him, will he not thus become the cause of troubles and of the public ruin? Ought he not to be dethroned?"

To this the Sheikh-ul-Islam answered by a simple "Yes," and, signed by his name, "Hassan Hairoullah," the questions and the answer became a "Fetva," of which the authority would be admitted by all true Mussulmans.

It is stated that it was not till three days before that Mehmet Rushdi Pasha gave his consent to the execution of the project, which it was immediately resolved to carry out at once.

His Highness by this decision saved the country from the most imminent danger; for the public exasperation arrived at such a height that the Softas and the people would undoubtedly have attempted a revolution, which, in their hands, would have been attended by all the evils and dangers of a popular movement, but which, conducted by those in authority, has passed without disturbance or even uneasiness.

When those who are entrusted by their Sovereign with power turn that power against him, there is in such conduct an appearance of treachery that must create a painful impression.

In the case, however, of Mehmet Rushdi Pasha, I must state that I believe his conduct to have been guided by no considerations but those of the purest patriotism.

I could not at this moment name another Turkish Pasha so universally regarded as incorruptible, and at the same time so free of all suspicion of being actuated by motives of personal ambition.

He had long been convinced, as he has frequently told me, that the personal character of the Sovereign rendered the utter ruin of the country inevitable, but he shrank from the act of violence to which he was at last driven, when, against his own wishes, he was placed in the high position which he now occupies.

The "Fetva" above quoted justified the deposition of the Sovereign in the eyes of all true Mahommedans, and it has been ratified by the voice of the nation with a unanimity for which there is probably not a parallel.

Midhat Pasha I believe to be equally devoted to his country, and to possess qualities of the highest order.

Of the policy that will now be pursued by the Porte, it is still too early to speak, but I may say with confidence that energy will immediately be perceived in the correction of abuses in the internal administration, and that one of the first acts of the new reign will be to place all the subjects of the Sultan upon a footing of real equality.

The task is a difficult one, and existing prejudices and traditions will not be quickly overcome.

With regard to foreign politics, it may be taken as certain that the Porte will be less patient than heretofore of the interference of other Governments, but it is to be hoped that it will be careful to avoid all cause of legitimate offence.

The new Sultan is known to cling to the Western Powers, and it is to them that he will look for counsel and advice.

There is, moreover, at this moment among all classes, both of Turks and Christians, an enthusiasm for Great Britain, which puts Her Majesty's Government in a position in this country which they have not held for many years.

No. 394.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 1, 1876.

I THIS evening transmitted to your Lordship by telegraph the substance of the Imperial Hatt read this afternoon at the Porte, as conveyed by memory from those who had heard it.

I have now the honour to inclose a hurried and unofficial translation of the document.

The only material correction which it is necessary to make in my telegram relates to the domains of the Crown, which are not stated to be handed over to the State—this cession being apparently confined to the mines and manufactories.

Some disappointment may be caused by the omission of a more distinct allusion to the "Constitution," upon which the public is bent, but until the Government had decided what they were prepared to do in that direction it was obviously more prudent to confine themselves to promising that there should be a financial control.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 394.

Imperial Hatt, dated June 1, 1876.

Mon illustre Vizir,

PAR la volonté de Dieu et le vœu unanime de tous nos sujets, nous venons de monter sur le Trône de nos ancêtres.

Nous vous confirmons dans vos fonctions de Grand Vizir, ainsi que tous les autres fonctionnaires et employés de l'Etat.

Ainsi qu'il est à la connaissance de tout le monde depuis quelque temps les difficultés de la situation intérieure comme extérieure du Gouvernement a produit dans l'opinion publique une manque de confiance qui a entraîné des pertes matérielles en altérant la tranquillité dans tous les sens. Il importe de faire cesser cet état de choses et d'y remédier; de rétablir la tranquillité dans le pays, et de ramener la confiance de tous les sujets de notre Empire; d'adopter une ligne de conduite de nature à assurer le bien-être ainsi que la prospérité matérielle et morale de tous nos sujets. La réalisation de ces vœux dépend de l'établissement sur une base solide et réelle des principes administratifs Gouvernementaux, et cette réalisation fait constamment l'objet de ma sollicitude. En conséquence, l'application de la loi et l'administration des affaires générales de l'Etat et l'octroi d'une législation sérieuse adoptée à la capacité des populations seront remaniés.

Tous nos sujets sans exception jouiront d'une pleine et entière liberté. Nous avons reconnu la nécessité de l'établissement d'un principe solide et stable qui amènerait toutes sortes de progrès, et qui assurerait l'harmonie et la bonne intelligence parmi tous nos sujets, et qui tendrait aussi à la conservation de la patrie. Pour mettre en exécution ce projet, il faut que les Ministres l'élaborent sur les bases sur lesquelles il doit reposer et le portent à notre connaissance; et pour arriver à ce résultat fondamental il devient nécessaire et important que les Ministères et Administrations du Conseil d'Etat, du Divani Ahkiami Adliyé, de l'Instruction Publique, du Maliyé, ainsi que tous les autres Départements, soient réorganisés, ce à que doivent aussi tendre les efforts des Ministres.

Comme les affaires financières forment aussi l'un des objets principaux et des plus importants du Gouvernement, il importe en conséquence d'établir un principe de nature à répondre à la confiance publique, c'est-à-dire, d'éviter toute dépense en dehors du Budget. Pour atteindre ce but et garantir les opérations financières, les améliorations à introduire à cet effet seront soumises à un mûr examen et à une surveillance rigoreuse.

Dans le but de venir en aide à ces dispositions, il sera déduit annuellement de ma liste civile 60,000 bourses en faveur du Maliyé, auquel je fais également abandon des mines d'Héraclée et autres, ainsi que les revenus des fabriques appartenant à la Couronne, dont l'administration relevera du Ministère des Finances.

Veillez et facilitez avec le plus grand soin l'équilibre des finances au moyen de ces modifications et économies.

Maintenez et respectez en même temps l'exécution des Traités avec les Puissances amies ; efforcez vous de resserrer les bons rapports d'amitié et de bonne intelligence qui existait entre le Gouvernement Impérial et les autres Puissances. C'est là encore mon plus sincère désir.

Que le Très Haut seconde nos efforts ! Amen.

9 *Djemaz-ul-evel*, 1293 (1 *Juin*, 1876).

(Translation.)

My Illustrious Vizier,

BY the will of God and the unanimous wish of all our subjects, we have just ascended the Throne of our ancestors.

We confirm you in your functions as Grand Vizier, and we confirm also all the other functionaries and officers of the State.

As is well known to all, both the domestic and foreign difficulties of the Government, have brought about in public opinion a want of confidence which, by disturbing the sense of security in every way, has entailed very material losses. It is necessary to put an end to this state of things, and to find a remedy for it ; it is necessary to adopt a line of conduct which shall ensure the welfare as well as the material and moral prosperity of all our subjects. The realization of these aspirations depends upon the establishment, upon a really sound basis, of the principles of Government administration, and this consommation is the ever present object of my care. Consequently, we will thoroughly investigate the application of the laws, the administration of all the affairs of the State, and the concession of a *bonâ fide* system of legislation adapted to the capabilities of the population.

All our subjects without exception shall enjoy full and complete liberty. We recognize the necessity for the establishment of sound and unswerving principles, which will bring in their train progress of every kind, ensure the existence of harmony and good-feeling amongst all classes of our subjects, and contribute, moreover, to the preservation of our common country. In order to carry out this project, the Ministers must work it out upon the proposed basis, and must then lay it before us ; and with a view to this most essential result, it is both important and necessary that the Ministries and Administrations of the Council of State, of the Divani Ahkiami Adliyé, of Public Instruction, of the Maliyé, as well as of all the other Departments, should be reorganized, and all the efforts of the Ministers must have this object in view.

Since financial measures form, moreover, one of the chief and most important duties of the Government, it is consequently essential to establish principles which shall challenge the confidence of the public, that is to say, that all expenses unprovided for in the Budget must be avoided. With a view to attain this object, and to guarantee our financial operations, the necessary improvements which are to be introduced shall be made the subject of mature deliberation and scrupulous superintendence.

With a view to facilitate the carrying out of these arrangements, an annual deduction of 60,000 "bourses" shall be made from my civil list in favour of the Maliyé, to whom I also cede all my mines, including those of Héraclée, as well as the revenues of the manufactories belonging to the Crown, the management of which the Ministry of Finance shall henceforth assume.

You will watch over, and by means of these modifications and economies, will seek with the utmost care to bring about the equilibrium of the finances.

You will at the same time maintain and see to the due execution of our Treaties with the friendly Powers ; seek, moreover, to draw closer and closer the friendly bonds of mutual good understanding which unite the Imperial Government with the other Powers. This, I should add, is my most sincere wish.

May the Almighty aid our efforts. Amen.

9 *Dejemaz-ul-evel*, 1293 (*June* 1, 1876.)

No. 395.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 1, 1876.

WHEN the deposition of Sultan Abdul Aziz became known much anxiety was felt respecting His Majesty's personal safety.

It appears, however, that his life was never in danger, and he was not treated with any unnecessary harshness or disrespect.

The small palace to which he was conveyed with his sons and a part of his harem is a low stone building situated at the Seraglio point at Stamboul, but it is not intended as his permanent residence, which will probably be fixed at one of the palaces on the Bosphorus.

Sultan Murad has sent His Majesty a reassuring message stating that he had himself been called to the Throne by the will of the people, but that His Majesty had nothing to fear from him.

I have myself conveyed to the Porte strong expressions of hope that the fallen Sovereign may be treated with all the consideration and respect that are due to the position he has occupied.

The certainty that no party exists in the country likely to attempt a restoration contributes largely to His Majesty's safety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 396.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, June* 8, 1876.

MY Austrian and Russian colleagues have returned here with fresh instructions.

The latter has precise instructions to dissuade a rash course, whilst the former informs me that his Government has already exhausted all possible counsel on Servia, and that Her Majesty's Government must have misapprehended the wishes of his Government for a renewal of previous remonstrances; admitting, however, at the same time, that a representation on the part of Her Majesty's Government might be attended with happy results.

In order that there may remain no doubt as to the wish of Her Majesty's Government, I have spoken to the Servian Minister in the sense of your Lordship's instructions, and his language and that of the Prince appears for the moment reassuring.

No. 397.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 9.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, June* 3, 1876.

YOUR Lordship has probably already been informed by Her Majesty's Consul at Roustchouk of an incident that occurred on the Danube a few days ago.

It appears that about 300 passengers, principally Bulgarians, while on board the Austrian Company's steamer "Radetzki," took charge of the vessel with all the arms they could find and compelled the Captain to land them on the Turkish side; where, after having overpowered the guard, they were attacked by Turkish troops. Some were killed or taken prisoners, and the remainder were dispersed.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs here assures me that every precaution is being taken in order to prevent Bulgarians from crossing over to Turkey in large numbers, and that Austrian steamers are now prohibited to take passengers from one shore to the other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 398.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, June* 9.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, June* 4, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 29th ultimo and the 2nd instant respectively, I ought to have mentioned that, although the Report of the Hungarian Committee on Foreign Affairs was unanimously adopted, and although no debate took place, two voices were raised in criticism of the Austrian policy in Turkey.

M. Uermènyi considered that the general wording of the Report was too detailed, and yet that the details were too little known for praise or blame to be awarded to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

But M. Kukuljevris, speaking in the Croatian language, declared himself against the maintenance of the *status quo* in Turkey as against the interests of the majority of the people of Austria-Hungary, and especially of Croatia, for it signified within the Empire opposition to the intellectual and material progress of that majority, and in Turkey the continuance of Asiatic barbarousness. Reforms in a Christian sense were the only solution of the difficulty, and the nation which would advocate the most complete autonomy for the oppressed Christians would for a long time exercise the greatest influence in the East.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 399.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 10.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, June* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Belgrade brigade of infantry militia left this yesterday for a place called Deligrad, which is situated on the road to Alexinatz, and not far before reaching that town.

This brigade consisted of about 4,000 men.

It is generally believed here that if the Servian Government should decide on proceeding to extremities at this juncture, they will send off to the frontier, and that very shortly, not only the seventeen brigades of the first class of the militia, but also the second class.

As yet I have not been able to learn anything positive as to what is really in contemplation, and in official quarters such an intention is denied, and only the sending off of three brigades of infantry—in all, 12,000 men, to guard the newly-constructed forts at Deligrad, and at Alexinatz, is admitted up to this moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 400.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 10.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, June* 3, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed this day to Sir Henry Elliot on the state of affairs in Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 400.

Consul-General White to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Belgrade, June* 3, 1876.

MY previous despatches will have prepared your Excellency to hear that the Prince of Servia and his Government might at any moment determine on a conflict with the Porte.

I am sorry to have to report to your Excellency that as yet I perceive no symptoms of any disposition in Servia, either amongst rulers or people, to retrace the perilous course upon which they have entered.

Its dangers are generally admitted, but most people here say that things have gone too far now.

I saw M. Ristich, the Foreign Minister, yesterday, and spoke to him very earnestly in the above sense, especially when he showed me the telegram of the Grand Vizier to the Prince, to which it appears no answer had been returned.

I shall not fail to inform your Excellency by telegram of anything bearing on the attitude of Servia towards the Porte which may come to my knowledge.

No. 401.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, June* 10.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 8 *Juin,* 1876.

JE vous transmets ci-dessous, à titre d'information, le résumé d'un télégramme que le Grand Vizir vient d'adresser au Prince de Servie:

Les assurances formelles et réitérées de Votre Altesse avaient dissipé les préoccupations qu'avaient fait naître à la Sublime Porte les armements considérables de la Servie; néanmoins, ces armements, loin d'avoir cessé, étant poursuivis dans des proportions telles que l'armée Servienne se trouve prête à entrer à toute heure en campagne, la Sublime Porte ne peut rester indifférente à un état de choses peu rassurant pour la tranquillité de nos provinces limitrophes, d'autant plus que les incursions des Serviens ajoutent à nos inquiétudes. Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, justement ému de cette situation, et ayant vivement à cœur de conserver invariables les bons rapports entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Princier, m'a ordonné de m'adresser officiellement à Votre Altesse pour avoir des explications franches et précises sur les motifs et le but réel de ces armements.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 8, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, the summary of a telegram which the Grand Vizier has addressed to the Prince of Servia.

"The formal and repeated assurances of your Highness had dispelled the anxieties caused to the Porte by the considerable armaments of Servia; nevertheless, these armaments, far from having ceased, are continued on such a scale that the Servian army is ready to enter upon a campaign at any moment. The Sublime Porte cannot remain indifferent to a state of things so little re-assuring as regards the tranquillity of our limitrophe Provinces, more especially since the incursions of Servians add to our uneasiness.

"His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, justly moved at such a state of things, and ardently desiring to preserve the good relations existing between the Sublime Porte and the Government of the Principality, has instructed me to address your Highness officially, with a view to seek frank and definite explanations as to the motives and real object of these armaments."

No. 402.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1876.

THE German Ambassador, in conversation this afternoon, spoke to me on the present state of affairs in Turkey.

I said that my language to every one had been that we were bound to allow the new Administration at Constantinople some breathing time, and to await the results of the efforts they were now making to bring about an arrangement for the settlement of the insurgent districts.

The Governments concerned might think it right to express severally their individual hope that the Sultan would go as far as he could in making liberal concessions to his discontented subjects, but I thought it was very expedient that we should refrain for the moment from anything in the nature of concerted action or advice; for this reason in particular, that an indication or expectation of such interference would in itself be sufficient, in all probability, to ensure the rejection by the insurgents of the terms offered to them, whatever those terms might be.

I went on to say that now that the proposals drawn up at Berlin were, as I understood, abandoned in consequence of the altered position of affairs, I no longer saw any reason why the six Powers should not again be agreed in their course of action.

Count Münster said that proposals had reached his Government from various quarters, in especial from France, for a Conference.

I said that similar suggestions had also been received by us, but that while I saw no objection in principle to the idea of a Conference, I did not myself think that there would be any practical advantage in such a meeting, unless some preliminary agreement were first come to as to the general outlines of the plan to be discussed in it.

Count Münster told me that this was also the view which Prince Bismarck took of the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 403.

The Earl of Derby to Count Beust.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, in accordance with the request which your Excellency made to me on behalf of your Government, on the 4th instant, I instructed Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Servia to join with his Austrian colleague in counselling moderation at Belgrade.

I have since received a telegraphic despatch from him reporting that on his applying to his Austrian colleague, the latter had stated that the Austrian Government had exhausted all possible counsel on Servia, and that Her Majesty's Government must have been under some misunderstanding in supposing that there was any intention to renew previous remonstrances.

Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General, nevertheless, made the representations which he was instructed to make to the Servian Government, though necessarily, under the circumstances, he could not carry out the direction to act in concert in the matter with his Austrian colleague.

I have thought it right to inform your Excellency of what has occurred in order that should you think proper you may call the attention of your Government to the circumstance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 404.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 10, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, June* 10, 1876.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs received last night a telegram from Belgrade, stating that the Prince of Servia had given Russian, French, and Italian Consuls positive assurance that he would follow the counsels of the Powers.

No. 405.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1876.

THE Austrian Ambassador called this afternoon and informed me of a communication which he had received within the last twenty-four hours, and which he regarded as eminently satisfactory. He was given to understand, he said, that the Emperor of Russia had sent from Ems a message to the Government of Servia, which was of a nature more decisive than any previous communication of the same kind. His Majesty had warned the Prince of Servia that if, contrary to advice, he involved himself in a war with Turkey, not only had he no material assistance to expect from Russia, but moral support and sympathy would equally be withheld. This warning, Count Beust said, was due, in part at least, to the request of the Austrian Government that some such language should be held, and he thought its effect at the present moment would be decisive.

From the conversation which ensued, I gathered that the view of Count Andrassy as to the course to be pursued at present is the same as that of Her Majesty's Government. Count Andrassy, as I understood from Count Beust, objects to a Conference without definite basis, and thinks that time must be given to allow of its being seen whether the direct negotiations with the insurgents, on which the Porte had entered, are likely to bring about a satisfactory result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 406.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 11.)

(Extract.) *Rome, June 3, 1876.*

HAVING already acquainted your Lordship by telegraph with the impression produced upon the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs by the intelligence, first conveyed to him by the Turkish Minister, of the deposition of Sultan Abdul Aziz and the proclamation of Sultan Mourad as Emperor of Turkey, it is only necessary that I should give a general outline of my conversations with his Excellency upon those events.

I asked his Excellency what I was to tell your Lordship was the impression of the Italian Government on what had occurred, and he gave me the answer, which I reported by telegraph on the 31st ultimo, to the effect that the Italian Government suspended all judgment until they received more complete information as to the motives of the originators of the revolution, and the course they intended to pursue.

The next day I again saw M. Melegari. He said he must admit that the general impression it had produced, both in Europe and Turkey, seemed to be favourable. That he had heard from Constantinople that the Dragoman of the English Embassy had already conveyed the congratulations of Her Majesty's Government to the new Sultan, and he looked upon this as a most reassuring fact. France had, he had also heard, done the same, and the Italian Government likewise intended to follow that course; but that he thought it right, as the Italian Government had agreed to join the Imperial Cabinets in the presentation of an identic note founded on the Berlin Memorandum, which presentation was now suspended, to communicate with them previously to taking the step alluded to.

I have seen M. Melegari again to-day, and his Excellency informed me that orders had been sent to the Italian Minister at Constantinople to offer the congratulation of the Italian Government on the accession of Sultan Mourad. His Excellency added that the congratulations of the three Imperial Cabinets would be conveyed at the same time.

In the course of further conversation, M. Melegari having expressed his entire satisfaction at the programme which had been issued in the name of the Sultan, I observed that I thought it ought now to be the policy of all the Powers to assist as far as possible in the realization of the measures which it indicated, and not to create any obstacles or difficulties by undue interference.

M. Melegari replied that this was precisely the sense of the instructions, both telegraphic and written, which had been sent to Count Corti.

I learnt from M. Melegari in this interview that there is a division of the Italian Squadron cruizing in the Adriatic, as well as one in the neighbourhood of Smyrna.

His Excellency, before my leaving him, mentioned that considerable alarm appeared to prevail amongst the Christians in some districts in Syria, where they had taken refuge at the Consulates, but the accounts he had received did not state there had been any acts on the part of the Mussulman population to justify this alarm.

No. 407.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 11.)

(Extract.) *Rome, June 6, 1876.*

M. MELEGARI, whom I saw this morning, told me that he considers the general position of affairs in regard to the East improved.

M. Melegari proceeded to say that he had sent instructions to the Italian Minister at Constantinople, who, by having conveyed to the Porte the usual compliments on the accession of the new Sovereign, was already in business relations with the Turkish Government, to counsel them to adopt spontaneously, and as speedily as may be, such measures as may render it unnecessary for the Powers to give any effect to the Berlin Memorandum; and on my reading Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 4th instant, giving the outline of a Proclamation to be addressed to the insurgents, then preparing by the Porte, His Excellency informed me he was already acquainted with the tenor of that document. His Excellency added that as soon as the accession of the Sultan Murad had been formally notified, His Majesty would be at once recognized.

M. Melegari then told me that he had received more reassuring accounts from Belgrade, where he had directed the Italian Consul-General to give pacific counsels. The Consul-General had been assured by the Prince that he did not contemplate any act of aggression, and was only preparing to act on the defensive. The disproportion between the number of Turkish troops on the Servian frontier and any force which the Servians could bring against them was a strong guarantee, in M. Melegari's opinion, for the sincerity of the Prince's assurances. M. Melegari stated that he did not believe in the existence of a Treaty of alliance between Servia and Montenegro. His information led him to a contrary conclusion.

No. 408.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, June 1, 1876.*

I WAS informed to-day on good authority that the Emperor of Russia had addressed from Ems a communication in very strong terms to the Princes of Servia and Montenegro, warning them against abandoning their neutrality and taking any aggressive action in support of the insurgents in the Herzegovina and Bosnia.

I am led to believe that this warning was most especially intended for Servia, where General Tchernaieff, it is said, has accepted a military command without the knowledge or authority of the Emperor.

In speaking lately with M. de Giers on the presence of this Russian General in Servia, his Excellency said that General Tchernaieff was no longer in the Russian service, and that, consequently, the Imperial Government had no power of restraint over him; but he gave me to understand that his presence in Servia was viewed with displeasure by the Imperial Government, and was not calculated at the present moment to be productive of good.

General Tchernaieff, since his disgrace after the taking of Tashkend, has been the editor of the "Russki Mir," which is the chief organ of the Slav party.

No. 409.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, June 5, 1876.*

I CALLED to-day on M. de Giers, with a view to ascertain in what light the Imperial Government viewed the startling events at Constantinople, and the impression they had produced.

In reply to my inquiries, M. de Giers stated that he had received no instructions from Prince Gortchakow, nor, indeed, had he received any intimation of the opinions of his Highness on the sudden change which had taken place at Constantinople.

His Excellency stated that he only received two Feldjägers per week from Ems, and that the last one had quitted on the 29th ultimo, before the deposition of the late Sultan had taken place.

All, therefore, that he could tell me was, that General Ignatiew had been instructed to maintain "des relations d'affaires" with the Porte.

M. de Giers informed me that General Ignatiew had telegraphed that he had received an official notification of the accession of Murad V, which would be forwarded by post.

M. de Giers added that on completion of due formalities the recognition of the new Sovereign would, he presumed, take place.

In the meantime, he was not aware that any instructions had been sent to General Ignatiew to felicitate Murad V, but, as all the diplomatic business was transacted at Ems, he was not informed until later of the official intelligence received at, or the instructions transmitted from, Ems.

The public here has received the sensational intelligence from Turkey during the last week with much emotion, with great surprise, and, I may say, with some satisfaction, considering that it may be the opening of a new era, which will tend to a satisfactory arrangement of the differences of the Porte with her Christian subjects in the Herzegovina and Bosnia, and to the general improvement of the Christian population of the Empire.

When the news of the dethronement of the Sultan was first received, some fears were entertained here that the new Sovereign would be subjected to the fanatic influence of the Softas, who were regarded as having been the prime movers of the revolution; but these fears have given way to sounder judgment, and the publication of the Imperial Hatt has produced a contrary impression, while there is undoubtedly a strong feeling of sympathy on the part of the Russian nation for the Christian population in Turkey, there is among the higher and enlightened classes an equally ardent desire for the maintenance of peace, and there is, moreover, a strong conviction that any entanglement of Russia in an European war, for which she is wholly unprepared, would be the greatest calamity which could befall the Empire.

No. 410.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, June 1, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that his Excellency Ibrahim Pasha, Governor-General of Bosnia, was informed by telegraph early on Tuesday morning, the 30th ultimo, by the high functionaries and dignitaries assembled at the Porte, that, by universal consent, Sultan Abdul Aziz had been deposed, and His Majesty Sultan Murad had ascended the throne. This news was immediately made public, and a salute of 105 guns was fired from the fortress.

The information received was also officially communicated to myself and colleagues, and in the course of the day we all, with the exception of the French Consul, who declined to take any steps in the matter without instructions from his Government, called in uniform on their Excellencies Ibrahim Pasha and Haidar Effendi to offer our congratulations. In the evening the former held an informal reception at the palace of all the chief functionaries and notables of the place, both Mussulman and Christian, at which the Consular Corps was also present, and the greatest satisfaction and even joy was manifested by everyone at the change of Sovereign.

The rejoicings have lasted three days, and the town has been illuminated every night; and I am happy to be able to report that the utmost order has prevailed throughout and the most perfect harmony between all classes and creeds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 411.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, June 2, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the revolt in the north of this province is still maintained with the greatest persistency. Although the Turkish troops gain partial successes from time to time over the insurgents and scatter their bands, these latter invariably reform again, and others are constantly appearing in fresh directions.

Besides many other trifling encounters reported to have occurred lately, a severe engagement is said to have taken place on the 22nd ultimo at about two hours distance from the town of Bihach. According to official reports a large body of insurgents endeavoured to cross the Unna, but being vigorously attacked by a Turkish force, retreated towards Austrian territory. They were not allowed, however, to cross the frontier, and the Turks gained a complete victory, the insurgent band being broken up, with the loss of a great many men, while the casualties on the Turkish side were trifling.

Information has been received here that a considerable band of insurgents has again crossed the Save near Svilaj, and succeeded in gaining the Vuchiak Brod Mountains; and the Austrian Consular courier, who arrived yesterday, reports that when he left Brod a sharp fusillade was going on within earshot of that town. Great fears are, consequently, entertained for the safety of the Brod road, and the Turkish post has refused this week to accept any groups or packets, and will only carry letters.

There have been reports lately of disturbances in the town of Priedor. The Slave

newspapers have even asserted that there has been a massacre of the Christians, and that all those who escaped death have fled from the place. I believe, however, that there is not even a semblance of truth in these statements. Two Christian merchants are said to have been murdered by some Bashi-Bozouks in the vicinity of Priedor, and this fact has probably been magnified into a massacre, for I have not been able to authenticate any serious tumult. In the present disturbed state of the country, murders and acts of violence are unfortunately of too frequent occurrence, but I do not think that any hostile feelings, likely to engender a massacre, are entertained by the generality of Mussulmans in this province against the Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 412.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, June 2, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the order received from Constantinople to sell the tithes of this province at public auction has again been revoked, and the arrangements previously commenced for the direct collection of the tax by Government are now being completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 413.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 4, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a note which I received this morning from Raschid Pasha, officially announcing the deposition of the Sultan Abdul Aziz and the accession of Sultan Mourad V to the throne of Turkey.

I likewise inclose the copy of my note acknowledging the receipt of this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 413.

Raschid Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 2 Juin, 1876.*

J'AI l'honneur de notifier, au nom de la Sublime Porte, à votre Excellence que devant les vœux unanimes du peuple Abdul Aziz Khan a été déposé et l'héritier présomptif Sultan Mourad V proclamé Empereur de Turquie.

Votre Excellence, qui a déjà été informée de cet heureux événement par l'entremise d'un fonctionnaire supérieur de mon Département, a également eu connaissance du programme libéral du Gouvernement que Sa Majesté a consigné dans son Hatt Impérial, lu solennellement hier à la Sublime Porte et dont un exemplaire a été remis à M. le Premier Drogman de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique. Mon Auguste Maître s'est plu par son rescrit Impérial à réintégrer son Altesse le Grand Vézir dans ses fonctions et confirmer tous les Ministres dans leurs postes respectifs.

Je vous prie, M. l'Ambassadeur, de vouloir bien porter l'avénement au trône de Sa Majesté le Sultan Mourad Khan à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique qui, je n'en doute pas, voudra bien, dans ses sentiments d'amitié, s'empresser de reconnaître le nouveau Souverain.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RASCHID.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, June* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to notify to your Excellency, in the name of the Sublime Porte, that in accordance with the unanimous wishes of the people, Abdul Aziz Khan has been deposed and the heir-presumptive Sultan Mourad V proclaimed Emperor of Turkey.

Your Excellency, who has already been informed of this happy event, by a high functionary of my Department, has also been made acquainted with the liberal programme of the Government, which His Majesty has laid down in his Imperial Hatt, which was read solemnly at the Sublime Porte yesterday, and of which a copy was handed to the First Dragoman of Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy.

My august Master has been pleased by his Imperial rescript to reinstate his Highness the Grand Vizier in his functions and to confirm all the Ministers in their respective posts.

I request you, M. l'Ambassadeur, to notify to the Government of Her Britannic Majesty the accession of His Majesty the Sultan Mourad Khan, and I doubt not, that they, with their sentiments of friendship, will hasten to recognize the new Sultan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 413.

Sir H. Elliot to Raschid Pasha.

Sir, *Therapia, June* 4, 1876.

I HAD this morning the honour to receive your Excellency's note, notifying, in the name of the Sublime Porte, the accession of Sultan Murad to the throne of the Turkish Empire.

I shall not fail to forward your Excellency's communication by the earliest opportunity to Her Majesty's Government, who, as your Excellency is aware, had already authorized me to congratulate His Majesty on his accession.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 414.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 12.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, June* 4, 1876.

I LEARN from Raschid Pasha that a Proclamation is being prepared, granting a full amnesty to the insurgents of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and stating that the military authorities would receive orders to abstain from hostilities, and from all military operations excepting such as were necessary for the provisioning of the fortresses, for a period of six weeks, during which the insurgents are invited to make known their grievances and requirements to the new Sovereign.

P.S. *June* 5.—Since writing the above, I learnt that the instructions in question have been forwarded to the Imperial Authorities by the telegram of which the translation is inclosed.

Inclosure in No. 414.

The Grand Vizier to the Commissioners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 5, 1876.

[See No. 381.]

No. 415.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, June 4, 1876.*

IN the afternoon of the day before yesterday I learned from one of the captains in the service of the Austrian Lloyd that a steamer (the "Ario"?) belonging to that Company had put into Gravosa at 2 o'clock that morning for coal; that she was bound for Cattaro, and had on board 14,000 rifles and a large quantity of ammunition, packed in cases as provisions, and destined for Montenegro. My informant having solemnly asseverated the truth of this statement, I lost no time in telegraphing the news to Sir Andrew Buchanan for communication to your Lordship.

It was reported yesterday that measures had been taken to stop the vessel at Cattaro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 416.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, June 4, 1876.*

WASSA EFFENDI, the President of the Reform Commission, returned from Trebinje on the 2nd instant. He called upon me yesterday evening, and told me that Baron Rodich would not assent to the proposal he had made, that all the Herzegovinian refugees who are willing to return should be received and provisionally quartered at Trebinje. The Turkish authorities have accumulated a large quantity of provisions and building materials at that place, which is distant but five hours by a good carriage-road from Ragusa. There are also there sufficient troops for the protection of the refugees; and the Civil Governor here, to whom Wassa Effendi had some days ago communicated this plan, fully agreed in its expediency and in the practicability of the fugitives being in this manner gradually reinstated in their homes, while the Austrian Government would be immediately relieved from the burden of their support.

The reason of Baron Rodich's refusal is unknown, but Wassa Effendi presumes that he requires that the refugees should at once be reinstalled each in his own house, and that they should be received by a Turkish Commissioner at any point of the frontier that they may choose, and protected by a sufficient force. Wassa Effendi argues, and it seems to me incontrovertibly, that such a plan is impracticable; that the nature of the country and the condition of affairs alike render its execution impossible; and that the only feasible proceeding for the repatriation of the refugees is the one he proposes.

In accordance with his urgent request, I yesterday evening telegraphed in this sense to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Vienna and Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 417.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 9, 1876.*

WITH reference to Mr. Monson's despatch to your Lordship of the 4th instant, which I forward to-day by post, reporting the refusal of Baron Rodich to assent to Wassa Effendi's proposal to receive the Herzegovinian refugees, and to quarter them provisionally at Trebigné, I took an early opportunity, after receiving Mr. Monson's telegram, to speak to Count Andrassy on the subject. His Excellency, who expressed surprise at the statement made by Wassa Effendi, observing that there must have been some misapprehension on his part, said he would cause an inquiry to be made into the matter, as he could see no objection to Wassa Effendi's proposal, and would gladly learn that all the refugees had left for Trebigné.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 418.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Berlin, June 7, 1876.*

I AM told that Prince Gortchakow is in favour of communicating to the Porte, after the recognition of the new Sultan Mourad V, the notes which were to have been presented on the 30th ultimo to the Ministers of the late Sultan Abdul Aziz.

Count Andrassy is in favour of delay, but says he will consent to the communication if Prince Gortchakow wishes it.

Prince Bismarck agrees with Count Andrassy in recommending further delay, since the Porte has already of her own accord proposed an amnesty and an armistice, and seems inclined to communicate directly with the insurgents, and listen to the expression of their grievances and requirements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 419.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Paris, June 11, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note which I received last night from the Duc Decazes.

In answer to the note on the subject which I addressed to him by your Lordship's order on the 8th instant, his Excellency says that he has requested the Minister of Marine to impress upon the Commander of the French squadron in Turkish waters the importance of respecting the Treaties relative to the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, and maintaining a perfect understanding on this matter with the Commanders of the naval forces of all other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 419.

The Duc Decazes to Lord Lyons.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Versailles, le 10 Juin, 1876.*

VOUS avez bien voulu m'annoncer, par votre office du 8 de ce mois, que le Gouvernement de la Reine, au moment où des forces navales considérables, appartenant à différentes Puissances, vont se trouver réunies dans les eaux de la Turquie, avait cru devoir recommander à l'attention spéciale de l'Amiral Commandant l'escadre Anglaise de la Méditerranée les clauses des Traités de 1841, 1856, et 1871, concernant les détroits des Dardanelles et du Bosphore. D'après ce qu'ajoute votre Excellence, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique est d'avis qu'en vue de prévenir toute contravention aux dispositions de ces Traités, les autres Gouvernements les rappellent également aux Amiraux ou Officiers Supérieurs commandant leurs flottes respectives, et il apprendrait avec satisfaction que des instructions dans ce sens fussent données par le Gouvernement Français, afin d'assurer le bon accord entre les Commandants des différentes marines.

Je suis heureux de vous faire savoir que le désir exprimé par votre Excellence est entièrement conforme à l'esprit général des instructions dont a été muni l'Amiral Commandant la Division Française dans les mers du Levant. Il lui a été prescrit notamment de se concerter, en toute occasion convenable, avec les Commandants des forces navales des autres nations, et il ne saurait manquer d'agir en conséquence pour ce qui regarde les stipulations internationales concernant les détroits. Afin de déférer toutefois au vœu formulé par le Gouvernement de la Reine, touchant ce point spécial, j'invite M. le Ministre de la Marine à insister auprès du Commandant de notre division navale sur l'intérêt qui s'attache au respect des dispositions des Traités qui ont

déterminé le régime des détroits et au maintien d'une complète entente à ce sujet entre les Commandants des forces navales de tous les pays.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) DECAZES.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Versailles, June* 10, 1876.

YOU were good enough to inform me in your letter of the 8th of this month, that, as a considerable naval force belonging to different nations will soon be assembled in Turkish waters, the Government of the Queen had thought it right to call the special attention of the Admiral commanding the British Squadron to the clauses of the Treaties of 1841, 1856, and 1871, respecting the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus.

From what your Excellency adds, the Government of Her Britannic Majesty is of opinion that in order to guard against any infringement of the stipulations of these Treaties, the other Governments might also remind their Admirals or senior officers commanding their respective fleeets, and would be glad to learn that instructions in this sense had been given by the French Government, in order that there might be a complete understanding between the Commanders of the different fleets.

I am happy to inform you that the desire expressed by your Excellency is entirely in accordance with the spirit of the instructions which have been furnished to the Admiral commanding the French squadron in the eastern seas. He was especially ordered to act in concert on every occasion admitting of such a course with the Commanders of the naval forces of the other nations, and he will therefore not fail to act in this sense as regards the international stipulations respecting the Straits. Nevertheless, in order to conform to the wish expressed by the Government of the Queen on this particular point, I have begged the Minister of Marine to press upon the Commander of our naval force the importance attached to respect for the stipulations of the Treaties which regulate the government of the Straits, and to a complete understanding on this subject between the Commanders of the naval forces of all the countries.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) DECAZES.

No. 420.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 13.)

My Lord, *Rome, June* 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, directing me to communicate to the Italian Government the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that instructions should be given to the Admirals and commanding officers of the various fleets soon to be assembled in Turkish waters to avoid any occasion of contravening the provisions of the Treaty of 1841 between Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey, and I have the honour to report that I have this day addressed a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs embodying these instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 421.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, June* 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 12 *Juin*, 1876.

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme du 5 de ce mois, je vous transmets ci-dessous le texte d'un télégramme adressé par Son Altesse le Grand Vézir aux Commissaires Impériaux en Bosnie et en Herzégovine :—

"Par mon télégramme du . . . . , je vous avais annoncé l'amnistie accordée par Sa Majesté Impériale Mourad V aux insurgés de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine et les mesures arrêtées par ordre Souverain à leur égard. Si ce télégramme ne fait pas mention des dernières réformes octroyées par le Gouvernement Impérial, c'est parce qu'elles sont acquises déjà aux populations de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, et que les Commissions des réformes sont chargées de leur pleine exécution sur la base des instructions remises à leurs présidents. Veuillez donc ajouter à la Proclamation que vous êtes chargé de publier, que ces réformes sont et demeurent maintenues dans toute leur intégrité.

"Il va sans dire que pendant le délai de six semaines qui vient d'être accordé aux insurgés pour faire leur soumission et rentre dans leurs foyers, votre Excellence ne négligera rien pour les faire profiter des bienfaits qui leur ont été accordés par le Gouvernement Impérial. La Commission doit donc s'occuper sans retard et très activement de la mise à exécution des réformes conformément aux instructions et aux pouvoirs dont elle est munie. Les autorités locales écouteront avec justice et bienveillance les sollicitations et les griefs légitimes des délégués qui seront désignés de la part de ceux qui voudront faire leur soumission, afin de les soumettre à l'appréciation du Gouvernement Impérial."

Veuillez faire part à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la teneur de ce télégramme.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 12, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 5th instant, I transmit to you herewith the text of a telegram addressed by his Highness the Grand Vizier to the Imperial Commissioners in Bosnia and the Herzegovina :—

"By my preceding telegram I announced to you the amnesty accorded by His Imperial Highness Sultan Murad V to the Bosnian and Herzegovinian insurgents, and the measures with regard to them decreed by sovereign order.

"If this telegram makes no mention of the recent reforms conceded by the Imperial Government, it is because they are already acquired by the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and because the Commissions for these reforms are charged with their full execution on the basis of the instructions sent to their Presidents.

"Be pleased to add to the Proclamation you are instructed to issue that these reforms exist and continue in their full integrity.

"As a matter of course during the interval of six weeks which has been granted to the insurgents in which to make their submission and return to their homes, your Excellency will neglect no means to enable them to profit by the concessions which have been granted to them by the Imperial Government.

"The Commission's duty then is to occupy itself at once and very actively with the carrying out of the reforms in conformity with the instructions and powers with which it has been furnished. The local authorities will listen with justice and favour to the requests and legitimate complaints of the delegates who may be chosen by such as desire to make their submission, so as to submit them to the consideration of the Imperial Government."

You are to communicate to the Foreign Minister the contents of this telegram.

No. 422.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 13, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government instructed your Excellency by telegraph, on being informed of the deposition of Sultan Abdul Aziz, to take such steps as might be

proper for congratulating Sultan Mourad personally on his accession, and on the 9th instant I forwarded to you the Queen's letter of credence, accrediting you as Her Majesty's Ambassador to His Imperial Majesty.

Her Majesty's Government considered that in the present state of affairs it was desirable that your Excellency should be in a position to enter into the closest official relations with the Sultan and the newly instituted Government without delay, and they have, therefore, not awaited the observance of all the usual formalities on such occasions before authorizing you to present your credentials.

The Sultan and his Ministers cannot but be aware of the serious nature of the present crisis, and of the urgent importance of taking advantage of the opportunity afforded by the change of Government to establish the administration of the country on a sound footing. Above all it is essential that no time should be lost in executing the reforms in the insurgent Provinces in a real and effectual manner.

In the note to Count Beust of the 25th of January, I pointed out that the reforms suggested by the Powers were all, or nearly all, already provided for by the Firmans of the Porte, or the laws of the Turkish Empire, and in recommending them to the Porte Her Majesty's Government felt that they were but asking the Porte to carry out those principles which it has constantly professed.

At the same time it is undeniable that the liberal and enlightened projects of reforms which have from time to time been promulgated at Constantinople, have not been brought into practical operation in the provinces. The spirit of obstruction has been permitted, by the laxity of the Porte, to prevail, and ignorance and corruption have too frequently disgraced the Administration, until the discontent of the Mahommedans as well as Christians has culminated in the overthrow of the late Sultan's throne.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction that the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna has assured the Austrian Government that the Porte abides by all the engagements for reforms in the disaffected provinces into which the Government of the late Sultan had entered. It is not enough, however, that the Porte should make assurances of its intentions, it should show the force of its intentions by its acts.

The incapable men who, as your Excellency has had too often reason to know, have been placed in positions of authority, should be at once removed and replaced by those who can gain the confidence and respect of the people. Extortion and corruption should be promptly punished, and the reforms in the administration of justice, and the concession of full civil rights to all the religious communities vigorously proceeded with.

It is only by this means that the Porte can hope to forestall the designs of the enemies of the Ottoman Empire, and to secure for the new Government the confidence which under the rule of the late Sultan had been so disastrously forfeited.

Her Majesty's Government are not ignorant of the difficulty of uprooting abuses of long standing, and effecting a radical reform in the the administration of a country like Turkey, but the necessity is imperative, and Her Majesty's Government would not be doing their duty as a friendly and allied Government if they now shrank from urging it.

They feel that they are in a position, from the circumstances of the political situation, in which their counsel should carry with it peculiar weight, and they accordingly desire that your Excellency should avail yourself of the earliest occasion to express these views to the Sultan in courteous and becoming, but explicit, language.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 423.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 13, 1876.

I SHOULD wish your Excellency to call the attention of Count Andrassy to the statements contained in the telegram from Mr. Monson which you forwarded to me on the 7th instant* respecting the landing at Cattaro of cargoes of munitions of war destined for Montenegro, and to state at the same time that this information has been

* For substance, see No. 433.

substantially confirmed by Her Majesty's Consul in Bosnia,* who reports the landing at Cattaro of 1,800 cases of rifles with ammunition.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 424.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 14.)

My Lord, *Scutari, May 31, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the manner in which the news of the change of Sultans at Constantinople has been received by the authorities and public in this place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 424.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, May 31, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that yesterday morning the Governor-General sent to inform me that he had received a telegram from the Porte, stating that, the Ottoman Throne having become vacant, Murad Effendi had been proclaimed Sultan. Later in the day I received a written communication from his Excellency to the effect that, Sultan Abdul Aziz having been dethroned by the unanimous wish of the nation, His Imperial Majesty Murad had been named his successor.

This morning the whole of the Consular body paid a visit to the Governor-General, and was received with every possible sign of honour, respect, and satisfaction. All the troops were drawn up before the Governor's residence, and presented arms on the arrival of the Consuls. A salute of twenty-one guns was also fired.

Achmed Hamdi Pasha endeavoured by every means in his power to create the impression that the new order of things at the capital will bring closer together than hitherto all the different nationalities and creeds existing in the Empire, and his success in conveying this belief has given universal satisfaction.

This afternoon I had the honour of replying in the following words to your Excellency's Circular telegram of the same date:—

"Sultan Murad's accession to the throne has caused among all classes here the greatest satisfaction. The local authorities have publicly marked their friendliness towards Christians and foreigners. Consular body paid official visit to Vali this morning."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 425.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 14.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, June 10, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegraphic despatches I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, on the 6th, when I spoke to Count Andrassy of the communication made to Baron Hofmann of the copy of a telegraphic despatch, reporting the amnesty granted by the Sultan to the insurgents in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and the orders sent to the Turkish Commander-in-chief and the civil authorities in those provinces to suspend hostilities for six weeks, and to invite the insurgents to state their grievances to the local authorities, and to communicate with them, with a view to the restoration of peace, his Excellency gave me to understand that no communication had been made to him on the subject by the Turkish Government.

* Reported by telegraph. For substance, see No. 491.

I therefore said that Falcon Effendi, the First Secretary of the Turkish Embassy, had informed me that he had left, in the course of the morning, with Baron Hofmann, for communication to his Excellency the copy of a telegram, by which the Ambassador had been instructed to acquaint him with the substance of a letter from the Grand Vizier to the Turkish authorities in the province, by which, at all events, the suspension of hostilities to which his Excellency had attached so much importance, had now been spontaneously granted by the Porte.

His Excellency answered that Falcon Effendi might possibly have given some information to Baron Hofmann as to orders sent by the Porte to the authorities in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, but if they were only those respecting which a report had been received by him from Count Zichy, they would prove of little use in promoting the pacification of the provinces; that the question at issue could not be arranged by verbal communication of Falcon Effendi, and that the Porte ought to have stated officially that the armistice which was wished for by the Powers had been granted.

I had some communication subsequently on the subject in the course of the evening with Falcon Effendi, suggesting that the Turkish Ambassador should address an official letter to Count Andrassy, referring to the verbal communication made to him on the previous day, and inclosing a copy of Raschid Pasha's telegram, accompanied by the expression of a hope that his Excellency would see in the amnesty proclaimed by the Sultan and the orders given by the Grand Vizier an intention of the Porte to meet the wishes which had been frequently expressed by his Excellency with respect to an armistice, and that orders would consequently be given to the Imperial authorities in Dalmatia and Croatia to concert measures with those of Bosnia and the Herzegovina for the return of the refugees to their homes.

A note to this effect, of which Aarifi Pasha has been good enough to communicate to me the copy (which I inclose herewith), was sent in the course of the afternoon to Count Andrassy; and his Excellency, the same evening, expressed to me a favourable opinion of the measures announced by the Porte.

Inclosure in No. 425.

Aarifi Pasha to Count Andrassy.

M. le Comte, *Vienne, le 7 Juin*, 1876.

POUR faire suite à la démarche que le Premier Secrétaire de l'Ambassade, Falcon Effendi, a été chargé de faire, hier, au Ministère Impérial et Royal, concernant la communication verbale d'un télégramme de la Sublime Porte, relatif à la lettre adressée, d'ordre de Sa Majesté le Sultan, par Son Altesse le Grand Vizir, aux Commissaires Impériaux en Bosnie et en Herzégovine, je m'empresse de transmettre, sous ce pli, à votre Excellence, une copie de cet important document.

Votre Excellence voudra bien y relever que Sa Majesté Impériale accorde, non-seulement une amnistie pleine et entière à tous les insurgés qui feront leur soumission dans le délai de six semaines, à dater de la publication de la lettre en question, mais qu'en même temps le Commandant-en-chef des troupes Ottomanes a été prévenue de cette amnistie générale, afin de faire cesser partout les opérations, pendant la période sus-mentionnée, à l'exception toutefois des mouvements pour le ravitaillement de Nichsich, et de permettre ainsi aux insurgés d'entrer, en toute sécurité, en rapport avec les autorités locales.

Je suis d'autant plus heureux de faire part à votre Excellence, d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, du contenu de la lettre Grand-Vézirielle, que je présume qu'elle aura lieu d'en être satisfaite. La suspension des opérations militaires, pendant un délai déterminé, rentre, en effet, pleinement dans les idées que votre Excellence m'a maintes fois exposées et va, en quelque sorte, au devant des désirs des Puissances qui ont toujours considéré l'adoption de cette mesure comme un acheminement vers une prompte pacification.

Je me permettrai, en terminant, d'exprimer l'espoir que des instructions seront transmises d'urgence aux autorités Impériales et Royales, tant en Dalmatie qu'en Croatie, qui leur prescrivent d'employer leurs bons offices pour faciliter le rapatriement des réfugiés.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AARIFI.

(Translation.)

M. le Comte, *Vienna, June* 7, 1876.

AS a supplement to the step that the First Secretary of Embassy, Falcon Effendi, was charged to take yesterday at the Imperial and Royal Ministry, concerning the verbal communication of a telegram from the Sublime Porte relative to the letter addressed, by order of His Majesty the Sultan, by His Highness the Grand Vizier to the Imperial Commissioners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I hasten to transmit herewith to your Excellency a copy of this important document.

Your Excellency will be pleased to gather therefrom that His Imperial Majesty grants, not only a full and entire amnesty to all insurgents who shall make their submission within the period of six weeks, from the date of the publication of the letter in question, but that at the same time the Commander-in-chief of the Ottoman troops has been notified of the general amnesty, in order that he may suspend operations everywhere, during the above-mentioned period, always excepting, however, the movements for revictualling Nichsich, and may thus permit the insurgents in full security to enter into communication with the local authorities.

I feel the greater pleasure in communicating to your Excellency, by order of my Government, the contents of the Grand Vizirial letter, in that I presume that you will find it satisfactory. The suspension of military operations, during a fixed period, accords indeed fully with the views which your Excellency has frequently expressed to me, and is indeed to some extent in advance of the desires of the Powers, who have always considered the adoption of this measure as a step towards a speedy pacification.

I take the liberty, in conclusion, of expressing a hope that immediate instructions will be sent to the Imperial and Royal authorities, in Dalmatia as well as in Croatia, enjoining them to use their best efforts to facilitate the repatriation of the refugees.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) AARIFI.

No. 426.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, June 14.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 13 *Juin,* 1876.

POUR faire suite à mon télégramme du 8 de ce mois, je vous transmets ci-dessous, pour votre information personnelle, la réponse du Prince de Servie, ainsi que la réplique du Grand Vézir à Son Altesse :—

" *Belgrade, le* 7 *Juin.*

" J'ai reçu le télégramme de votre Altesse en date d'hier, et j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à sa haute appréciation les considérations suivantes :—

" Lorsque l'insurrection éclata l'année dernière en Herzégovine, une vive émotion s'empara des esprits en Servie ; la vigilance de nos autorités se trouvant dans les premiers moments surprise, un certain nombre d'individus originaires soit d'Herzégovine, soit de Bosnie, et établis dans la Principauté, passèrent la frontière. Me trouvant alors à Vienne, j'ai fait prendre, dès mon retour, les mesures les plus sérieuses pour la surveillance de la frontière, de sorte que depuis l'automne dernier pas un seul volontaire ne l'a franchie pour pénétrer dans les provinces limitrophes de la Principauté. Néanmoins, les agressions des Bachi-Bozouks, Tcherkès, et Arnaoutes, leurs incursions armées sur le territoire de la Principauté n'ont pas cessé jusqu'à ce jour, de sorte que mon Gouvernement a dû en faire continuellement l'objet de plaintes légitimes auprès des Gouverneurs-Généraux de Provinces et même auprès de la Sublime Porte. Ces plaintes ont engagé le Gouvernement Impérial à déléguer, pour les examiner, le Colonel Faïk Bey, et à inviter mon Gouvernement à envoyer aussi un délégué. C'est à la suite de cette invitation que le Colonel Oreschkovitch a été désigné de notre part. J'attendrai avec confiance le résultat de cette Commission, qui constatera suffisamment d'où sont parties les agressions dont parle la dépêche de votre Altesse. De même nos troupes qui, aux premiers bruits alarmants, avaient été désignées sur la frontière, en ont été rappelées déjà avant l'hiver ; il ne s'y trouve nulle part aujourd'hui de troupes Serbes, à l'exception des ouvriers employés aux travaux de défense. Malgré cela, l'armée Impériale est restée dans ses positions, enveloppant la Servie d'un cercle de fer, et entretenant dans les esprits des appréhensions continuelles qui ont arrêté dans le

pays tout commerce et toute industrie. En face d'une insurrection qui s'étend jusque dans le voisinage de la Servie depuis déjà six mois, en face des incursions armées de bandes indisciplinées qui répandent l'incendie et le pillage dans nos districts frontières, enfin, en face de l'attitude menaçante de l'armée Impériale vis-à-vis de la Servie, l'Assemblée Nationale a chargé mon Gouvernement de veiller à la sûreté du pays, et a mis dans ce but à sa disposition les moyens nécessaires. Telle est, Altesse, la vraie et unique signification des préparatifs militaires qui se font ici; destinés à la défense du pays, ils cesseront en même temps que les causes qui les ont provoquées; ils n'ont d'autres buts. Eloigné de tout dessein qui pût porter atteinte soit aux rapports dans lesquels se trouve vis-à-vis de la Sublime Porte, soit à l'intégrité de l'Empire, intégrité dans laquelle la Servie puise sa force, et voyant, d'autre part, d'après votre dépêche, que les bruits alarmants concernant la Servie trouvent créance à Constantinople, j'ai résolu d'y envoyer un délégué spécial qui donnera à la Sublime Porte tous les éclaircissements nécessaires, et aura l'ordre de s'entendre avec le Gouvernement Impérial par un échange d'explications franches et loyales, de manière à mettre nos rapports réciproques sur le pied d'une entière confiance. Mon Envoyé partira sans délai, et je ferai connaître son nom à votre Altesse par l'intermédiaire de mon Agent à Constantinople."

Réponse du Grand Vizir, le 12 Juin.

J'ai reçu le télégramme de votre Altesse du 7 Juin. Je suis heureux, mon Prince, de dire à votre Altesse que, pendant ma carrière de cinquante années, il m'a été donné de constater que les dispositions et les sentiments bienveillants du Gouvernement Impérial à l'égard de la Servie sont restés invariables et ont été corroborés par des preuves successives et éclatantes, et que la politique traditionnelle de la Sublime Porte a été de respecter toujours et en toute occasion, en conformité des stipulations des Hatti Chérif et des Traités, l'autonomie et les priviléges de la Principauté. Je me félicite d'autant plus de témoigner aujourd'hui encore à votre Altesse ces dispositions, qu'en ma qualité de vieux Serviteur de l'Etat, et m'inspirant de cette même politique, je n'ai cessé de concourir à tout ce qui a été de nature à assurer le bonheur et la prospérité de la Servie. Je rappellerai même ici avec satisfaction que je me suis trouvé au pouvoir dans des circonstances qui ont été particulièrement favorables à la Principauté. Je me flatte d'espérer, mon Prince, que votre Altesse, dont nous connaissons les sentiments à l'égard de la Cour Souveraine, ne doutera pas de ce que je viens d'avoir l'honneur de dire. Elle s'expliquera dès lors aisément les mesures de précaution qui ont dû être prises par le Gouvernement Impérial au début de l'insurrection de l'Herzégovine, et en présence surtout des incursions de bandes et de la vive agitation des esprits constatée par votre Altesse elle-même, agitation qui s'est manifestée dans la Principauté. Ces incursions avaient même pris depuis un caractère inquiétant; les bandes qui passaient la ligne de démarcation allant jusqu'à incendier des corps de garde, à tirer sur nos patrouilles, à assassiner des gendarmes isolés, à commettre des meurtres sur des gens inoffensifs, à piller des villages, à brûler les récoltes, à enlever les bestiaux, &c. En face de cette situation et en considération de la probabilité que des réclamations analogues aient pu avoir lieu de la part des autorités Princières, nous avons nous-mêmes pris l'initiative de faire constater sur les lieux mêmes les plaintes des autorités locales par une Commission composée d'un délégué Ottoman et d'un délégué Serbe. Si le départ du premier a été ajourné, c'est à la suite de l'information qui nous a été fournie par l'Agent de votre Altesse que le délégué Serbe étant malade, il ne pourrait pour le moment se rendre à sa destination. Telles sont en résumé, mon Prince, les causes des mesures de précaution prises par la Sublime Porte, et dont fait mention le télégramme de votre Altesse. Tel est le motif qui a fait différer provisoirement le départ du délégué Impérial, qui se mettra en route aussitôt que nous aurons reçu l'avis que son collègue est parti. Nous nourrissons, comme votre Altesse, l'espoir que cette Commission parviendra à résoudre les difficultés locales en donnant une solution satisfaisante aux plaintes formulées de part et d'autre.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 13, 1876.

AS sequel to my telegram of the 8th of this month, I transmit to you herewith, for your personal information, the reply of the Prince of Servia as well as that of the Grand Vizier to His Highness:—

"*Belgrade, June 7, 1876.*

"I am in receipt of your Highness' telegram of yesterday's date, and I have the honour to submit to your high consideration the following reflections.

"When the insurrection broke out last year in the Herzegovina, a lively agitation was kindled in Servia; as the vigilance of our authorities found itself, just at first, taken by surprise, a certain number of individuals, either of Herzegovinian or Bosnian origin, and who were settled in the Principality, passed the frontier. Being myself at that time at Vienna, on my return I caused the strictest measures to be taken for watching the frontier, so that effectively since last autumn not a single volunteer has passed it to penetrate into the provinces contiguous to the Principality. Nevertheless the aggressions of the Bashi-Bazouks, Tcherkis, and Arnaoutes, and their armed incursions on the territory of the Principality, have not ceased up to the present day, so that my Government has been obliged to make them the continual cause of legitimate complaints to the Governors-General of provinces, and even to the Sublime Porte. These complaints have caused the Imperial Government to send the Colonel Faïk Bey as delegate to examine them, and to invite my Government also to send a delegate. It is in consequence of this invitation that the Colonel Oreschkovitch has been selected by us. I shall await with confidence the result of this Commission, which will sufficiently prove from whence came the aggressions spoken of in your Highness' despatch. In the same way our troops, which, at the first alarming rumours, had been directed to the frontier, were already recalled before the winter; at present no Servian troops are to be found in any direction, with the exception of the workmen employed on defensive works. In spite of this, the Imperial army has retained its positions, enveloping Servia in an iron circle, and keeping alive in men's minds the continual apprehensions which have put a stop to all commerce and industry in the country. In presence of an insurrection which, for six months, now extends to the vicinity of Servia; in presence of the armed incursions of undisciplined bands who spread fire and pillage in our frontier districts; lastly, in presence of the menacing attitude of the Imperial army as regards Servia, the National Assembly has charged my Government to watch over the safety of the country, and to this end has placed the necessary means at its disposal. Such, your Highness, is the true and sole meaning of the military preparations going on here; destined for the defence of the country, they will cease with the cessation of the causes which have produced them; they have no other object in view. Being far removed from all designs which could convey any attack either on the relations with the Sublime Porte or the integrity of the Empire, from which Servia draws her strength, and seeing, on the other hand, according to your despatch, that the alarming reports respecting Servia find credence at Constantinople, I have resolved to send a special delegate there, who shall afford the Sublime Porte all necessary explanations, and will have orders by a frank and loyal exchange of explanations to come to an understanding with the Imperial Government, so as to place our mutual relations on a footing of entire confidence. My Envoy will leave without delay, and I will make his name known to your Highness through my Agent at Constantinople."

Reply of the Grand Vizier, June 12.

I have received your Highness' telegram of June 7. I am happy, my Prince, to state to your Highness that, during my career of fifty years, I have been enabled to declare that the dispositions and kindly sentiments of the Imperial Government as regards Servia have remained unvaried, and have been confirmed by successive and convincing proofs, and that the traditional policy of the Sublime Porte has been to respect always and on every occasion, in conformity with the stipulations of the Hatti Cherifs and the Treaties, the autonomy and privileges of the Principality. I congratulate myself the more, on again bearing testimony at the present time to your Highness of these dispositions, because in my quality of an old servant of the State, and instigated by this same line of policy, I have not ceased to concur in all that has been of a nature to ensure the happiness and prosperity of Servia. I will even recall here with satisfaction that I found myself in power in circumstances which have been particularly favourable to the Principality. I presume to hope, my Prince, that your Highness, whose sentiments with regard to the Sovereign Court we know, will entertain no doubt of what I have had the honour to say. Your Highness will understand, then, easily the measures of precaution which the Imperial Government had to take at the outbreak of the Herzegovina insurrection; and, above

all, in presence of the incursions of bands, and of the lively agitation mentioned by your Highness which showed itself in the Principality. These incursions even assumed later on a disquieting character, the bands which passed the line of demarcation going to the length of burning the guard-rooms, firing on our patrols, assassinating isolated gendarmes, murdering inoffensive people, pillaging villages, burning the harvests, carrying off cattle, &c.

In view of this situation, and considering the probability of analogous complaints being possibly made on the part of the authorities of the Principalities, we ourselves took the initiative of examining on the spot the complaints of the local authorities by a Commission composed of an Ottoman and Servian Commissioner. If the departure of the former has been delayed, it is in consequence of information furnished us by your Highness' Agent that the Servian delegate, being ill, could not at present proceed himself to his destination. Such are, in short, my Prince, the causes of the measures of precaution taken by the Sublime Porte, and mentioned in your Highness' telegram. Such is the motive which has deferred provisionally the departure of the Imperial Delegate, who will start as soon as we hear that his colleague has started.

We cherish, like your Highness, the hope that this Commission will succeed in settling the local difficulties by giving a satisfactory solution to the complaints presented from both sides.

No. 427.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 14, 1876.

IN the course of a long and interesting conversation which I held with the Russian Ambassador on the 12th instant, he expressed regret at the general distrust which appeared to be felt in England as to the designs of his Government, thinking, as he said, that the character and antecedents of the Emperor were a sufficient guarantee for his pacific intentions.

I assured his Excellency, in reply, that we did not doubt, and never had doubted, the desire of the Emperor for the maintenance of peace; he was well known to be opposed on principle to a warlike policy, which, moreover, would be obviously opposed to the interests of Russia at the present moment; but I reminded his Excellency that the language and conduct of Russian Agents had not always been in accordance with what I could not doubt was the intention of the Government, and that the sympathy generally felt in Russia for the insurgent population of Turkey was a matter of notoriety. These circumstances were in themselves enough to explain any expressions indicative of suspicion or mistrust that might have appeared in the press, or in public speeches—expressions, I must observe, which had never been used or sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government. I was glad, I added, to take the opportunity of acknowledging the importance of the service rendered to European peace by the warning recently addressed by the Emperor to the Prince of Servia, which, according to our latest reports, appeared to have accomplished its object.

In answer to a further inquiry by Count Schouvaloff, I said that it was not a part of the system or policy of England to take up a position of isolation in Eastern matters, as, indeed, our conduct during the last few months had shown. Her Majesty's Government had given their support to the note of Count Andrassy, though at no time sanguine of the results to be expected from it; they had dissented from the policy indicated in the Berlin Memorandum for reasons frankly stated by them at the time, and which they still held to be valid; it now appeared that action on that document was indefinitely postponed, and, as far as I saw, there was no present cause of difference between Her Majesty's Government and those of other Powers. All were agreed that the new Sultan should be allowed time to consider his policy and to deal with the insurgents by direct negotiation. The success or failure of his overtures to them remained to be seen, and, while that continued uncertain, no further step could well be decided upon.

Count Schouvaloff did not dissent from the above observations, but said it would be desirable to know what was the solution of the difficulty which England desired to see adopted. What was the drift and object of British policy? Until that was known to his Government, united action was impossible, however much other Powers might desire it.

I said in reply that, supposing the negotiations now in progress between the Porte and the insurgents to end in a pacification, it was obvious that the object we desired would be effected without our interference, and nothing more need be said or done in the matter. Supposing them to fail—which, I did not conceal from him, I thought to be the more probable alternative—I doubted the possibility of effective interposition, unless we were prepared (which Her Majesty's Government were not) to use compulsion as against one or other party in the quarrel. The insurgents appeared to be fighting, not for administrative reforms, but for independence or autonomy in some form; the Porte, on the other hand, was willing to grant reforms more or less extensive, but would certainly not concede autonomy unless compelled: the differences between the views of the two parties seemed irreconcileable, and I did not believe that either would be willing to give way. Nothing, I thought, remained, except to allow the renewal of the struggle, until success should have declared itself more or less decisively on one side or the other; if the Sultan found that his troops could make no head against the insurgents, and that the latter continued to hold their ground, he might and probably would be willing to yield to the pressure of necessity. In that case, the revolted provinces would have acquired for themselves a position similar to that of Servia or Roumania. If, again, the Sultan succeeded in even partially re-establishing his authority, the demands of the insurgents would be moderated, their confidence would have received a check, and they would acquiesce in some such arrangement as that made with the Cretans after the war of 1866-67. In either event, the time would not be distant when the Powers might usefully and successfully mediate; but that time did not appear to me to have arrived as yet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 428.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 14, 1876.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government cannot overlook the fact that if the Powers who advocate enjoining proposals on the Porte are sincerely desirous of pacifying the insurgent provinces, they should show their good-will by restraining (as it is notorious that some of them have the means of doing) the open encouragement given to the insurgents, and by using real influence to restrain Servia and Montenegro.

Whatever may have been the origin of the insurrection, there can now be no doubt that it is fomented from without, and that the efforts of the Turkish Government are baffled in a military sense by the warnings addressed to the Porte to respect Montenegro, which is practically the focus of the insurrection; and in a political sense, by the projects continually put forward with the object of making the insurgents look to foreign Powers, and not to their own Government, for protection and guarantees, thus effectually discouraging any arrangement between the insurgents and the Porte.

While these causes are allowed to operate, and the prospect of military immunity and political advantages held out to the insurgent Chiefs, it is in vain to suppose that the districts can be pacified, even though, as appears to be probable, a majority of the inhabitants, or at all events a large number of them, may be anxious to return to their homes, and willing to submit to the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government leave to your Excellency's discretion the best manner of expressing these views in conversation with the Duc Decazes. Her Majesty's Government do not desire to make any formal representation on these matters, but as the Duc Decazes has invited a frank interchange of opinions, they think it right not to conceal from his Excellency what they believe to be now generally recognized as the true state of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 429.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 14, 1876.

WITH reference to my previous despatch of this day's date, I have to call your Excellency's attention, as showing the means by which the insurrection in Turkey is maintained, to the reports which Her Majesty's Government are receiving of the supplies of arms being received by Montenegro through Cattaro, and to the telegram from Consul Holmes, which arrived yesterday, stating that the insurgents had attacked the village of Razno, to which the inhabitants had returned, and driven off 2,000 head of their cattle.

It is obvious that while a frontier warfare of this kind is allowed to continue projects for pacification containing recommendations for the return of the inhabitants must be illusory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 430.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 15.)

My Lord, *Athens, June* 6, 1876.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship yesterday by telegraph that Greece had officially recognized the new Government in Turkey.

I think that the Hellenic Government rather prides itself on having been one of the first to recognize the accession to the Throne of Sultan Mourad, and that they are anxious to cultivate friendly relations with the Porte.

M. Coumoundouros, the Prime Minister, whom I saw to-day, informed me that the revolution lately effected at Constantinople had produced a favourable impression in Greece, but he expressed a hope that the Sultan's promises would be accompanied by some guarantees which would ensure their fulfilment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 431.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Mostar, June* 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch of 25th May addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, reporting the feeling with which the news of the accession of Sultan Murad was received here, also regarding the present state of the country and other matters.

Her Majesty's Ambassador having informed me of Mr. Freeman's appointment to the post of Vice-Consul at Mostar, and there seeming nothing more to be done here beyond reporting passing events, I intend to return to Serajevo next week, and shall send Mr. Freeman to Mostar as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. R. HOLMES.

Inclosure in No. 431.

Consul Holmes to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Mostar, June* 1, 1876.

ON the 30th of May the Governor-General addressed a Circular to the European Delegates and Consuls here announcing the accession to the Throne of Sultan Murad Khan.

In the evening he held an official reception, and the town was ordered to be illuminated for three nights.

The population seems to have received this intelligence with indifference, but certainly with more satisfaction than regret. Ali Pasha told me that many of the Mussulmans believed that the late Sultan was dethroned because he was too favourable to the Christians, and because he would not consent to war with Montenegro and Servia. The official class is delighted with the change, and hope great things from it. Up to the present moment perfect tranquillity prevails.

Moukhtar Pasha is still preparing for his expedition to Nichsich. In the meanwhile bands of the so-called insurgents pillage and destroy property in every direction, penetrating to even a few hours from Mostar. The Commander-in-chief says he cannot prevent this. He would require several thousands of Bashi-Bazouks and Pandours to do so.

The peaceable inhabitants, both Mussulmans and Christians, are terribly wearied of their present situation, and no efforts seem to be made in the right direction to put an end to it.

I repeat what I have said before, that the war in the Herzegovina has been, and is, entirely kept up by the inhabitants of the old revolted districts, who have been virtually independent of the Porte for the last fifteen years, supported by Montenegro. These people care nothing for any concessions which may be made to the inhabitants of the Herzegovina, which would in no wise affect them, and are ready to continue to harass the Turks and maintain their present attitude, so long as they receive orders to that effect from Montenegro, and while they are, as hitherto, protected and paid to do so. I therefore believe that no promises of reform or any amount of concession to the Christians will produce any effect until Montenegro is either persuaded or forced to give the signal for peace.

No. 432.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 16.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, June* 6, 1876.

WITH reference to a telegram in the "Times" of the 31st ultimo, stating that the Montenegrin Minister of War had informed General Rodich that an offensive and defensive alliance had been concluded between Servia, Montenegro, Roumania, and Greece, I have the honour to report that M. Cogalinceano, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has, on my bringing it to his notice, informed me that the article in question, having appeared in several foreign newspapers, had already been officially contradicted by him, and solemnly assured me that, so far as these Principalities were concerned, the report was entirely false.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 433.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 16.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, June* 7, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant respecting the cargo of munitions of war destined for Montenegro, I am this morning assured that M. Plamenac, the Montenegrin Minister of War, came down to Cattaro with 1,700 Montenegrins to receive it. The cargo was landed, and the manifest, noting 6,000 rifles and a very large quantity of boxes of cartridges, was verified, and has been sent to Baron Rodich. The restriction on the export of arms to Montenegro has been removed, it appears; and no difficulty was made about the landing of the cargo. The rifles, which are said to be of the pattern in use in the Austrian army, but provided with the old-fashioned bayonet, were at once transported to Cettigné by the Montenegrins aforesaid.

I am further assured that another steamer, with six cannon and the requisite ammunition, is expected at Cattaro on Montenegrin account.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 434.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 16.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, June* 7, 1876.

MOUKHTAR PASHA is said to have collected at Gatzko 750,000 okes of corn, and to be making preparations for another expedition to Nichsich. As no beast of burden can in these mountainous regions carry more than 70 okes, and as Moukhtar Pasha cannot have more than 2,000 animals at his disposal, a comparatively small portion only of this grain will reach the beleaguered fortress.

Some of the refugees from the district of Popowo regularly cross the frontier now to cultivate their fields during the day, returning to Austrian soil at night.

Among those quartered at Ragusa and in the immediate neighbourhood, typhus fever is said to be very prevalent. I visit one or two of the refugee camps daily, and invariably encounter litters and coffins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 435.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 16.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, June* 7, 1876.

PRINCE WREDE, my Austrian colleague, having returned from Pesth last night, where he had been to see Count Andrassy, I called upon him this morning to ask him what steps it was his intention to adopt with a view to impress upon the Prince of Servia, and his Government, the pacific counsels of our Governments.

He replied, as he had told our Italian colleague a few hours previously, that Count Andrassy considered that all means of persuasion and friendly counsel had been exhausted by the Austro-Hungarian Government at Belgrade when he had made his last representations here in March last, and that the Imperial Government had determined to abstain from giving any further advice to the Prince of Servia and to watch the events taking their course.

I told Prince Wrede that I had reason to believe that his Government had asked your Lordship distinctly to instruct me to join him in counselling moderation, and that, moreover, I understood from Count Joannini that a similar application had been made quite recently by the Austrian Ambassador at Rome to the Italian Government, and that I was very much surprised to hear from him that he had no instructions to that effect, as I had been desired to act in concert with him in giving advice to that effect.

Prince Wredé said that he did not anticipate any good result from any advice of this kind, as he was of opinion that Prince Milan and his Government had gone too far in their warlike proceedings to allow of their receding or shrinking from its results now; he added, however, that as neither the British nor the Italian Governments had given any expression to their views officially since last October at Belgrade, it would, he thought, be acceptable to his Court and desirable as an evidence of the similarity of the views of the different Cabinets if the Representatives of these Powers were to express to the Servian Government how much it would put itself in the wrong by departing from a pacific policy.

I observed to my Austrian colleague that such a language had been frequently employed by me unofficially here, but that the opportunity of giving it an official form had been denied us by the action taken at Belgrade by two of the three Imperial Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 436.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 16.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, June* 8, 1876.

IN accordance with the instructions received from your Lordship by telegraph, I applied to Prince Wrede to learn from him what advice he was about to give to the

Prince of Servia, and I had a conversation with him, as reported in my despatch of yesterday, from which I ascertained that he was abstaining completely.

In the course of the day I learnt that my Italian colleague had been exactly in the same predicament, and having found out the inaction of Austria, had tendered the pacific advice he had been instructed to give in concert alone.

The French Acting Consul-General had preceded us all with the advice of his Government, and had a long interview with the Prince on Sunday the 4th instant.

M. Kartzoff had just returned from Ems. The extreme war party were urging the Prince to commence hostilities at once, instead of recognizing the new Sultan, and I had every reason to consider the moment as critical.

I therefore thought I should be acting in the spirit of your Lordship's instructions by going at once to speak to the Foreign Minister, and leaving no doubt on his mind of the pacific wishes of Her Majesty's Government, as a concert with my Austrian colleague could not be brought about, owing to his want of instructions.

I told M. Ristich, in general terms, that Her Majesty's Government attached naturally great value to the preservation of peace in these parts, and as there were reasonable hopes of improvement under the new Government at Constantinople, I said it would be highly reprehensible of Servia to break the peace at such a moment.

M. Ristich endeavoured to attenuate the offensive character of Servia's preparations. He tried to show that the conduct of his Government was such as was commanded by the feelings of the people and by the exigencies of the condition of the adjoining provinces, and he evidently wished me to think that, as far as possible, proper regard would be paid to the advice of the Powers, and that there was no danger for the moment.

The Prince himself came into the room, and continued the conversation in the same tone.

I trust that your Lordship will consider that in acting thus I was only doing what I thought most advisable under the circumstances, and most in accordance with the spirit of your Lordship's instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 437.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 16.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, June* 8, 1876.

THE return of M. Kartzoff, my Russian colleague, from Ems was looked forward to with considerable interest at Belgrade.

M. Kartzoff happened to be at Ems on the day when the news of the change of Sultan reached his Imperial Majesty, and he received instructions both from the Emperor and from Prince Gortchakow.

In compliance with these he has had to drop all intercourse with General Chernaieff here, and likewise to inform Colonel Ismailoff, another retired Russian officer, who was desirous to take service in Servia, that the Emperor prohibited his doing this, and that he should forfeit his Russian pension in case of non-compliance with this intimation. Colonel Ismailoff remains here, I believe, as correspondent.

No. 438.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 16.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, June* 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, having seen M. Ristitch, the Foreign Minister, twice in the course of a week, I took occasion to press him to send a proper reply to the Grand Vizier in answer to His Highness' notification of the accession of Sultan Mourad V.

I am informed that a reply has been sent to Constantinople by the Prince by this day's post.

No. 439.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, June 10, 1876.*

THE German Consul-General Count de Bray has been instructed by his Government yesterday to give pacific counsels to the Servian Government.

The Austro-Hungarian Agent, at the request of whose Government these steps have been taken, has abstained from renewing those he made two months ago.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 440.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

(Extract.) *Belgrade, June 12, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the state of affairs in Servia continues very critical.

Upwards of 20,000 men of the militia have been embodied and sent either to occupy the new forts on the roads towards Nish and Widdin near the Turkish frontier, or on that frontier on the Drina. A large number of officers have been appointed and sent in various directions, and about 3,000 men are being drilled near Shabatz, evidently with a view to be employed in Bosnia as soon as the insurrection extends there in the direction of Servia.

An inroad into Bosnia by some armed bands, none having been sent since last autumn, will probably constitute the prelude and commencement of regular Servian hostilities.

The usual Budget provides no means for embodying the militia; money out of the new loan comes in very slackly. A paper currency will soon have to be resorted to, and though hardly one-fifth of the men are as yet under arms the expense is estimated daily at nearly 2,000*l.* even now.

No. 441.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 8, 1876.*

SOME disappointment has been caused by the comparatively small amount of money discovered in the private treasury of the late Sultan. Besides the bonds for 8,000,000*l.* of Turkish Consolidés, which His Majesty was known to hold, not more than 100,000*l.* in cash was discovered there. The Grand Vizier, however, declares that he never expected more; and, taking into consideration the enormous amount expended by Sultan Abdul Aziz upon the construction of palaces and farm buildings, and the purchase of houses adjoining his palaces, as well as the fact that his accumulations of money date only from the period of the first Grand Vizirate of Mahmoud Pasha, after the death of Aali Pasha, about five years ago, the expectation of discovering greater hoards would seem to have been unreasonable.

Jewellery to the amount of about 1,000,000*l.*, and recently purchased, was also found in the Palace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 442.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 8, 1876.*

ONE of the questions upon which the Ministers are known to be divided in opinion relates to the admission of Christians into the army.

The necesssity of putting an end to the distinction which has been maintained between the two religions has long been admitted in principle, and while one clause of the Hatti Houmayoun of 1856, drawn up under the advice of the Western Powers, stated that Christians should be admitted to the military schools, another declared that measures should be immediately concerted for admitting them generally into the army.

These two clauses have hitherto remained a dead letter.

At one time a disposition was shown by the Porte, some fourteen years ago, to give them effect, but the influence of such high authorities as Earl Russell, as Secretary of State, and of Lord Dalling, as British Ambassador, was exercised against it, and nothing was done.

The unwillingness which would at that time have been found among the Christians to be called upon for military service to a great degree explains the opinion then formed by Her Majesty's Government, but it was an erroneous one, and it would have been far better to face the many and great difficulties with which the question is undoubtedly surrounded rather than to maintain the one great badge of distinction existing between the two races.

The Christians have become aware that until it is swept away their nominal equality with the Mussulmans cannot be complete and real; and sharing, as I do, this conviction, I spare no exertion to persuade the Turkish Ministers that this is the moment for commencing the great reform.

It is not necessary that the conscription should at once be put in force among the Christian population, but the military schools should at once be opened to them, and they might be received either as volunteers or as substitutes for Mussulmans drawn as conscripts.

The Grand Vizier does not appear to be altogether opposed to this, and Midhat Pasha is ready to go still further; but I can speak with no certainty of Hussein Avni Pasha, the Minister of War, whom I have not had an opportunity of seeing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 443.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, June 8, 1876.*

THE Bulgarian insurrection appears to be unquestionably put down, although, I regret to say, with cruelty, and, in some places, with brutality.

I am not disposed to accept the accounts, which come from the sources to which it would not be difficult to trace the origin of the movement, which are exaggerated to a degree which must deprive them of the slightest credit, but there is evidence that the employment of Circassians and Bashi-bazouks has led to the atrocities which were to be expected.

These irregulars have now been recalled, but not before they had done enough to embitter the feelings which must be entertained by the Christians towards the Mussulmans.

No. 444.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 13, 1876.*

I YESTERDAY acquainted Count Andrassy with the substance of your despatch of the 1st instant, instructing me to express to his Excellency Her Majesty's Government's appreciation of the anxiety of the Austro-Hungarian Government to to secure their co-operation in carrying out the proposals set forth in the Berlin Memorandum, and expressing their regret at being unable to act in concert with Austria-Hungary and the other Powers in this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 445.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 13, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 7th instant, acquainting me with your instructions to Mr. White to act in concert with his Austrian colleague in advising the Prince of Servia to pursue a pacific policy, Count Andrassy, some days before I had received it, had expressed to me his satisfaction at having learnt from Belgrade that Her Majesty's Government had complied with his wishes on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 446.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, June 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of a letter which I have addressed to Count Andrassy, calling his Excellency's attention, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant,* to the landing of arms at Cattaro for the Prince of Montenegro.

I have since also had some conversation with his Excellency on the subject, when he stated to me that the Prince of Montenegro has done nothing yet which would have justified the Austro-Hungarian Government in preventing His Highness receiving these arms, more especially as he had given positive assurances that they were for his own use, and would not be given to the insurgents. Therefore, although their embarkation had been prohibited for several weeks, his Excellency said he had at last yielded to the remonstrances of the Prince, supported by the Russian Government, and allowed the arms to be embarked.

Inclosure in No. 446.

Sir A. Buchanan to Count Andrassy.

Dear Count Andrassy, *Vienna, June 10, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government having been informed that 6,000 rifles and a large quantity of ammunition were disembarked at Cattaro on the first day of this month from a Lloyd's steamer, I have been instructed by Lord Derby to call your Excellency's attention to the subject.

It is said that these arms were received at Cattaro by the Montenegrin Minister of War and a large body of Montenegrins, and that the manifest of the cargo was sent to General Rodich.

* For substance see No. 423.

Her Majesty's Government have also been informed that there is reason to believe that six cannon for Montenegro are shortly expected at Cattaro.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 447.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 12, 1876.*

HAVING learnt accidentally yesterday that the Montenegrin Senator Petrovich, who is still here, has announced to Count Andrassy the intention of his Government to place troops upon the frontier near Nichsich, as a precautionary measure, in consequence of the Turkish Commander-in-chief apparently intending to concentrate a large force in that district, and having reason to believe that the Russian Ambassador considers the circumstances to justify such a measure, I have expressed a strong opinion to Count Andrassy against its expediency, observing that it appeared to me that nothing could be more impolitic on the part of the Governments having any influence on Prince Nicholas, than to sanction a demonstration of a more or less hostile character on his part, at a time when everything possible ought to be done to remove causes of irritation and to promote the success of the steps taken by the Porte for the pacification of the insurgent provinces.

Count Andrassy appeared entirely to share this opinion, but I gathered from his language that he would offer no serious objection to the view taken of the matter by Russia.

During our conversation his Excellency mentioned that the Prince of Montenegro, though declaring that he will act in conformity with the wishes of the Powers, and has not yet promised in a satisfactory manner to use his influence with the insurgent for the restoration of peace, and his Excellency said he has therefore told the Senator Petrovich that he must insist on receiving, without further delay, an unconditional engagement on the part of the Prince that he will do so.

I have had some conversation also with the Russian Ambassador respecting the proposed occupation of the frontier by Montenegrin troops, and I have expressed to his Excellency the same opinion upon it which I had done to Count Andrassy.

M. de Novikoff said that the experience of the last war, however, entirely justified the Montenegrins in watching their frontier on the side of Nichsich, and that as only one or two battalions are likely to be employed for the purpose they ought not be an object of suspicion to the Turkish authorities. I answered that as a small force must be useless for the defence of the territory, and its presence could not fail to create irritation and distrust, if it did not lead to collisions with the Turkish troops and cause new complications; his defence of the intended measure was, in my opinion, rather an additional reason why it should not be adopted.

His Excellency, however, then alleged that Prince Nicolas was obliged to respect the opinions and apprehensions of his subjects in questions of this kind in order to maintain his authority, but that he could confidently assure me that, whatever movements of troops might take place in the Principality, His Highness would maintain peace with Turkey.

This assurance is the more satisfactory, as Count Andrassy received a telegram yesterday from one of his agents in the Herzegovine, stating that Montenegro would declare war on Sunday next, the 18th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 448.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 13, 1876.*

IN a recent conversation with Count Andrassy on the subject of Servian armaments, I said that I had been informed that the Government were expecting a large supply of Krupp guns from Germany, and his Excellency answered that if they did

the guns could only reach them through Russia, as he had strictly prohibited their receiving any arms through Austria-Hungary.

If he had not prohibited, at the same time, the export of horses, he said he had not done so, because he had ascertained that the Servian Government could procure them from Bessarabia, and it was, therefore, unnecessary to deprive the Hungarian horse dealers of the market, which has been opened to them at Belgrade.

I am told here, in answer to inquiries which I have caused to be made, that a Prussian domiciled at Vienna has supplied considerable quantities of arms and ammunition to the Government of Servia, and that he has found no difficulty in forwarding his goods to Belgrade, through Russia, and also by Constantinople and the Danube.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 449.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, June 13, 1876.*

ALTHOUGH public opinion may not have a very great influence on the policy of the Austrian-Hungarian Government, it will, I trust, be satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government to know that the press generally has approved of the course followed by Great Britain with respect to the Berlin Memorandum.

No. 450.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 13, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday on the subject of the reforms promised by the Porte in the Herzegovina, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note, and its inclosure, addressed to Count Andrassy by the Turkish Ambassador to-day, communicating to his Excellency a telegram containing the substance of the orders sent to the Commissioners in the insurgent provinces.

A telegram was received yesterday from Count Zichy reporting the explanations which he had received on the subject from Raschid Pasha, and I trust from Baron Hofmann's language to me this morning that they will be found satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 450.

Aarifi Pasha to Count Andrassy.

M. le Comte, *Vienne, le 13 Juin, 1876.*

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre sous ce pli à votre Excellence copie d'un télégramme que son Altesse le Grand Vézir vient d'adresser, par ordre de Sa Majesté le Sultan, aux Commissaires Impériales en Bosnie et en Herzégovine. Ainsi que votre Excellence le verra, ce télégramme est, en quelque sorte, le corollaire de la lettre Grand-Vézirielle que j'ai déjà porté à sa connaissance par ma communication en date du 7 courant.

Le Grand Vézir commence par déclarer que s'il n'a pas fait mention dans sa lettre précédente des dernières réformes octroyées déjà par le Gouvernement Impérial aux populations de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine, c'est que, dans sa pensée, ces réformes sont acquises aux dites populations et que les Présidents des Commissions Exécutives, réunies sur les lieux, demeurent chargés de leur exécution, sur la base des instructions qu'ils ont reçues. Son Altesse invite subsidiairement les Commissaires Impériaux à ajouter dans la Proclamation qu'ils ont été chargés de publier, que ces réformes sont et restent dans toute leur intégrité et ajoute qu'ils ne doivent rien négliger pendant le

délai de six semaines qui vient d'être accordé aux insurgés pour faire profiter ces derniers des bienfaits du Gouvernement Impérial; qu'enfin la Commission doit s'occuper sans retard et très activement de la mise en exécution des réformes, conformément aux instructions et aux pouvoirs dont elle est munie. Les autorités locales sont en même temps mises en demeure d'écouter avec bienveillance les sollicitations et les griefs légitimes des Délégués désignés de la part des insurgés qui voudraient faire leur soumission.

Votre Excellence voudra bien reconnaître avec la loyauté qui le caractérise qu'on ne saurait tenir un langage plus clair et plus précis.

Cette nouvelle démarche de son Altesse le Grand Vézir témoigne de la ferme volonté du Gouvernement Impérial de ne point se départir de la voie des réformes en même temps qu'elle est un hommage rendu aux désirs exprimés par les Puissances.

En portant ce qui précède d'ordre de mon Gouvernement à la connaissance de votre Excellence, &c.

(Signé) AARIFI.

(Translation.)

M. le Comte, *Vienna, June* 13, 1876

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a telegram the Grand Vizier has addressed, by order of His Majesty the Sultan, to the Imperial Commissioners in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As your Excellency will perceive, this telegram is to a certain extent the corollary to the Grand Vizirial letter which I have already communicated to you by my letter of the 7th instant.

The Grand Vizier begins by declaring that if he has not mentioned in his previous letter the recent reforms already conceded by the Imperial Government to the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is because he considers that the said populations have already obtained these reforms, and that the Presidents of the Executive Commissions assembled at their posts continue to be charged with their execution on the basis of the instructions which they have received. His Highness is sending additional instructions to the Imperial Commissioners to add in the Proclamation which they have been instructed to issue, that these reforms exist and continue in their full integrity, and is adding that they should neglect no means to enable the insurgents to profit by the concessions of the Imperial Government during the interval of six weeks which has been accorded to them; saying finally, that the Commission should occupy itself forthwith and very energetically with the execution of the reforms, in conformity with the instructions and powers with which it has been furnished. The local authorities are at the same time directed to accord a favourable hearing to the requests and legitimate complaints of the Delegates chosen by such insurgents as desire to make their submission.

Your Excellency will acknowledge, with your characteristic frankness, that it would be impossible to use clearer and more precise language.

This fresh step of His Highness the Grand Vizier shows the firm determination of the Imperial Government not to abandon the path of reform, whilst it is at the same time a homage rendered to the wishes expressed by the Powers.

In bringing the foregoing, by order of my Government, to the knowledge of your Excellency, I have, &c.

(Signed) AARIFI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 450.

The Grand Vizier to the Turkish Commissioners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 13, 1876.

[See No. 421.]

No. 451.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 16, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve the remarks made by your Excellency to Count Andrassy, as reported in your despatch of the 12th instant, as to the inex-

pediency of sanctioning the assembly of Montenegrin troops in the neighbourhood of the Turkish frontier, whatever might be the avowed object of such a gathering.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction that Count Andrassy had told Senator Petrovitch that he must insist on receiving, without delay, an unconditional engagement on the part of Prince Nicolas that he would use his influence with the insurgents to promote the restoration of peace. I should wish you to express to his Excellency the pleasure with which this information has been received, and to state that it is the hope of Her Majesty's Government that he will continue earnestly to impress upon the Prince these counsels, which, if they are followed, will be the surest method of leading to the pacific solution equally desired by both Governments.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 452.

Count Beust to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

M. le Comte, *Belgrave Square, le* 15 *Juin*, 1876.

JE me suis empressé de porter à la connaissance de mon Gouvernement la substance de la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser à la date du 10 du courant, relativement à des instructions transmises suivant le désir que je lui en avais exprimé au Consul-Général d'Angleterre à Belgrade et à ce que cet Agent a été dans le cas de mander en conséquence.

Mon Gouvernement, très reconnaissant de l'appui prêté par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique aux conseils de modération donnés par lui-même n'en déplore que davantage un malentendu qui très probablement a été occasionné par une manière erronée, dont le Prince de Wrede a cru devoir interpréter les ouvertures de son collègue d'Angleterre. Il paraît avoir supposé qu'il s'agissait d'une démarche collective à laquelle en effet le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal n'aurait guère pu s'associer après avoir fait précédemment à plusieurs reprises les remontrances les plus vives. Une intervention analogue de l'Agent et Consul-Général d'Angleterre était d'un grand secours pour le Représentant du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois, et le malentendu que je me suis permis d'expliquer a seul pu l'empêcher d'en témoigner à son collègue toute la satisfaction qu'il devait en éprouver.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) BEUST.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Belgrave Square, June* 15, 1876.

I HASTENED to acquaint my Government with the substance of the note which your Excellency did me the honour to address to me on the 10th instant, relative to instructions forwarded, in accordance with the wish I had expressed, to the English Consul-General at Belgrade, and to the communication that Agent has consequently been in a position to make.

My Government, very grateful for the support given by Her Britannic Majesty's Government to the counsels of moderation it has itself offered, feels the more regret for a misapprehension which has very probably arisen from the mistaken interpretation which Prince Wrede has put upon the overtures of his English colleague. He seems to have imagined that a collective step was contemplated, in which indeed the Imperial and Royal Government could not have joined after having already on several occasions made the most earnest remonstrances. An analogous intervention on the part of the British Agent and Consul-General was of material assistance to the Representative of the Austro-Hungarian Government, and the misapprehension which I have taken occasion to explain has alone prevented him from testifying to his colleague the full satisfaction he must have experienced from it.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) BEUST.

No. 453.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 16, 1876, 12·15 P.M.*

LAST night, while in Council at Midhat Pasha's house, Raschid Pasha and the Minister of War were shot dead and the Minister of Marine wounded by Circassian, said to be a former aide-de-camp of the late Sultan's son.

No details that can be relied upon are yet known, but the murderer was seized, and there is reason to hope that his motive was dictated by private revenge upon Minister of War and that Raschid Pasha was killed in attempting to defend his colleague.

If, as not impossible, a state of fanatical anarchy arise, the presence of foreign ships-of-war at Constantinople may become necessary for the protection of their subjects.

I keep Admiral informed of the state of things.

No. 454.

The Grand Vizier to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, June 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 16 Juin, 1876.*

J'AI la douleur de vous faire part d'un assassinat commis cette dernière nuit sur la personne de son Altesse Husséin Avni Pacha et de son Excellence Rachid Pacha. Cet horrible événement s'est passé de la manière suivante :—

Le nommé Hassan, d'origine Circassienne, sorti il y a quatre ans de l'Ecole Militaire avec le grade de Lieutenant, fut nommé Capitaine pour être envoyé dans l'armée de Bagdad. Pour certaines considérations il fut retenue à Constantinople et employé dans diverses fonctions. Lorsque cette fois-ci on lui donna le grade d'Adjudant Major et un emploi dans la dite armée, Hassan allégua des prétextes pour ne pas partir et fut emprisonné. Ayant été mis en liberté hier afin de partir aujourd'hui, Vendredi, pour sa destination, il se rendit le soir au yali du Seraskier. Informé que celui-ci se trouvait au Conseil avec ses collègues dans la résidence de son Altesse Midhat Pacha, l'assassin s'y rendit. Les gardes, le croyant encore aide-de-camp, ne l'empêchèrent pas d'entrer dans la salle du Conseil. Hassan tira à bout portant avec le revolver qu'il avait dans sa poche sur Husséin Avni Pacha. Pendant que les autres se pressaient pour le saisir, Rachid Pacha, Ahmed Agha, domestique de son Altesse Midhat Pacha, et un soldat, ont subi le même sort. Le Ministre de la Marine, ainsi qu'un autre soldat, ont reçu des blessures. L'assassin est arrêté.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic) *Constantinople, June 16, 1876.*

IT is my painful duty to inform you that his Highness Hussein Avni Pasha and his Excellency Raschid Pasha were last night assassinated.

This horrible event took place as follows :—

A certain Hassan, a Circassian by birth, and who five years ago left the Military School with the rank of Lieutenant, was appointed Captain, to be sent to the army of Bagdad. For certain reasons he was retained at Constantinople, and employed in various posts. When, latterly, he was appointed to the rank of Adjutant-Major and to a post in the said army, Hassan advanced various excuses for deferring his departure, and was therefore imprisoned. Being released yesterday, with a view to his departure to-day, Friday, for his post, he proceeded in the evening to the house of the Seraskier. On being informed that the latter was at a meeting of his colleagues at the residence of his Highness Midhat Pasha, the assassin proceeded thither. The sentries, believing him to be still an aide-de-camp, did not prevent his entrance into the Council Chamber. Hassan fired point blank at Hussein Avni Pasha with the revolver which he had in his pocket. While the rest endeavoured to seize him, Raschid Pasha, Ahmed Agha, a servant of his Highness Midhat Pasha, and a soldier, shared the same fate. The Minister of Marine, as well as another soldier, were wounded. The murderer has been arrested.

No. 455.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 16, 1876, 11·30 P.M.*

IT is possible that the alarm felt by some of my colleagues at the state of things may dispose them to advise their Governments to send the fleets to Constantinople.

Such a measure would not at present be justifiable, and should not be resorted to unless indispensable for protection of foreign subjects in case of anarchy, of which there is no appearance at present.

No. 456.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 16, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 10th instant, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approves the advice given by you to the Turkish Ambassador, which induced him to record, in an official note addressed to Count Andrassy, the fact of the communication, which had been made verbally to Baron Hofmann, of the telegram reporting the amnesty offered by the Porte to the insurgents, and the instructions respecting a suspension of hostilities for six weeks sent to the Turkish military and civil authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I approve also the judicious suggestions made by you, and adopted by the Ambassador, as to the conciliatory language by which the communication should be accompanied.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 457.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 17.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, May 29, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, giving a list of the principal changes which the representatives of the Cretan Christians desire to see introduced into the Organic Law.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 457.

Consul Sandwith to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Canea, Crete, May 28, 1876.*

IN my despatch of the 22nd instant, I had the honour to state to your Excellency that that day had been fixed for the Christian half of the General Assembly to present to Raouf Pasha the modifications they desired to see introduced into the Organic Law. These modifications, however, were of so extensive a character, affecting almost every part of the law in question, that one day was found quite inadequate for their consideration, and the whole week has been occupied in going over, one by one, the articles of the law, which, when it was promulgated eight years ago, was thought to be a liberal concession to the Christian Islanders.

The further concessions now demanded by the latter have all been entered in the Minutes of Proceedings of the Assembly, forming a voluminous document in modern Greek, a translation of which it is impossible to prepare for transmission by this post, as the meetings were only brought to a conclusion yesterday, and the post leaves to-morrow morning. I therefore confine myself on the present occasion to giving your

Excellency a list of the principal demands made by the representatives of the Christians, reserving the fuller consideration of them for the following post.

1st. They demand that the people shall be entitled to elect representatives for the General Assembly, in proportion to the relative numbers of the two sects in the several districts, thereby giving a great preponderance of Christian Deputies.

2nd. That the Administrative Council (Idaré Mejlis) sitting at Canea shall be formed of the Governor-General (Vali), as President, and of six members elected by the General Assembly, four Christians, and two Mussulmans, and that all those Government employés who at present sit there by virtue of their office shall be excluded. That the District Administrative Councils shall be constituted on the same principle.

3rd. That, inasmuch as the Vali who sanctions the decisions of the various tribunals is a Mahommedan, the President of the Appellate Court which sits at Canea, and the Presidents of the Courts of First Instance and of Commerce, holding their sittings in the chief towns of Canea, Candia, and Rethymo, shall be Christians, the four judges of the said Courts being, as at present, two of them Christians and two Mussulmans.

4. That in the districts (kazas) where the majority of the inhabitants are Christian, the Presidents and three of the Judges shall be Christian, the remaining Judge being a Mussulman. That in those districts where the majority are Mussulman (this obtains in one only), the same proportion shall be observed in favour of Mussulmans.

5. They demand that Kaïmakams (Governors of districts or kazas) shall henceforth be chosen from among Cretans and appointed by the Porte instead of at present by the Vali (this being a recent innovation), and that before entering upon the duties of their posts, their fitness for their posts must be pronounced by the Administrative Council.

6. That Mouavins (assistants attached to each Kaïmakam) shall be appointed by the Vali, also selected from among natives, their fitness for their posts being likewise decided by the same Council.

7. That inasmuch as the Governor-General is a Mahommedan, the post of Mussulman Councillor (Mushaver) be suppressed, the office of Christian Councillor being alone retained.

8. That the corps of zaptiés be recruited exclusively from the natives of the island in proportion to the respective numbers of the two religious communities, and that, instead of their superior officers (consisting of a Colonel and four Majors) all belonging to the dominant faith, two of the latter shall be Christians. (Of the 2,800 zaptiés enrolled, upwards of 2,000 are at present Albanians.)

9. That the Defterdar and the four Muassabéjis (Director and sub-Directors of the Financial Department) shall have each a Christian clerk attached to them, and that a Budget of the receipts and expenditure of the Administration shall be annually presented to the General Assembly, the same items of which shall be submitted for their consideration and approval.

10. Larger powers are demanded for the Christian Demogerontias, Courts which administer the properties and protect the interests of minors and orphans, and in some instances of pious foundations. They demand that the decisions of these Courts shall be binding.

Lastly, they desire that the sittings of the General Assembly shall be open to the public.

Such are the principal of the radical reforms which the chosen leaders of the Cretan Christians have decided to ask of the Porte. They have been elaborated by the town deputies, chiefly lawyers and doctors educated at Athens, men who were excluded from the Assembly when the towns were virtually deprived of their franchise in 1869. Now that they have recovered the right of returning their own members, these latter at once acquired that ascendancy over their rural colleagues which superior intelligence never fails to command. Perfect accord has not, however, always reigned amongst them, and compromises have in certain cases had to be made in order to prevent disunion. In the Article, for instance, which demands not only that a Christian shall be President of the District Courts, but that three of the four Judges should also be Christians, the deputies of the towns were in favour of the Judges being equal in number. Their country colleagues, however, threatened to withdraw their support if their wishes in this matter were not respected, and the others were obliged to yield.

These meetings of the past week have been held in the absence of the Mussulman deputies, for fear of provoking unseemly disputes. The latter, who are, of course,

advised of the proceedings of their Christian colleagues, are sparing no pains to prevent the acceptance of the demands of their rivals at Constantinople. Both parties seem sanguine of success, and it will be no easy problem for the Porte to devise such a compromise as shall satisfy the Christians without exasperating the Mussulmans.

No. 458.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 17.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, June* 9, 1876.

SINCE the date of my despatch of the 30th ultimo I have heard nothing particular to report upon respecting the disturbances in the Tirnova district of this vilayet except from the Governor-General, who states that all is quiet again.

Fayli Pasha, the General commanding the troops in the district, arrived here three days ago by way of Widdin. I therefore think that what the Governor-General says is correct.

On Sunday last the Pasha read me a telegram he had just received from the Roumanian Government respecting certain measures which he had requested them to take in the vicinity of Galatz and Braila, relative to some disaffected Bulgarians in that quarter.

The telegram was certainly highly satisfactory; and the Pasha read it to me to show the good effect produced in Roumania by the recent changes at Constantinople. If the telegram be carried out, any Bulgarians in Roumania who still have designs against this vilayet will surely be thwarted.

The Archbishop here, a man of great influence over the Bulgarians, called at this Consulate a few days ago and gave me an opportunity of conversing with him as to the relations between the Bulgarians and Mussulmans here.

His Eminence told me that he had issued a strong circular throughout his diocese with a view to promote a better feeling, and assurred me that he should not cease to do all in his power with this object always in view.

He said that the principal difficulty that lay in his way was the conduct of some of the minor authorities in the country districts, which was often such as to drive the parties wider apart.

His circular, he added, was issued in consequence of a conversation I had previously had with him on the subject, and as he said that nothing could be better than the feeling of the Governor-General on the subject. I said that I should always be most happy to bring to the Pasha's knowledge, unofficially, anything his Eminence might wish him to know. This I was able to offer, as the Pasha had requested me to let him know whatever I might hear in this way.

The Bishop thanked me and said that this would greatly facilitate matters, and spoke in strong terms of the way in which the Bulgarians have been duped from abroad.

The Governor-General is also working hard with a view to reconciling the two communities in question, and I, having the confidence of both, shall not fail to do all I can, unofficially, in assisting to promote this object which, if brought about, will undoubtedly reduce, if not sweep away, the present difficulties of the Porte, at any rate, in this part of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 459.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 17.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translation of an extract of a letter dated Cettigné, which has appeared in the "Politische Correspondenz" of this day, on the subject of the relations between Turkey and Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 459.

Extract from a Letter published in the "Politische Correspondenz."

(Translation.)

REPORTS received from Cettigné describe the situation in Montenegro as being far less critical than it was a week ago. It appears certain that a warning came from Ems that all possible care should be taken to prevent a rupture with the Porte, and it was decided that the well-meant advice of Russia should be followed. The first result of this determination has been that all the Serdars and captains have received orders not to allow any Montenegrin to cross the frontier; and the Montenegrin troops concentrated on the frontier have been strictly prohibited from making any demonstration against the Turkish forces. In consequence of the advice he has received from Russia, Prince Nicholas will henceforth restrict himself *de facto* to the position of a neutral observer of events. The special Envoy from Russia, who is expected here, will thus find all ready for his mission of peace. In any case the Prince will await the result of the direct negotiations which are about to be opened between the Porte and the insurgents, provided that they are not frustrated by the new expedition which Moukhtar Pasha intends to make to Nichsich. Should these negotiations prove successful, then Montenegro will have finished her part. Should the contrary be the case Prince Nicholas will act according to circumstances. In the present, however, Montenegro retires to the position indicated to her by the counsels of the Czar. If the Turkish troops should be withdrawn from the Montenegrin border, Prince Nicholas would be enabled to give the same orders to the Montenegrins concentrated on the frontier. By taking the initiative the Porte would render far easier the Prince's transition from the position of an armed to that of a peaceful neutral, aud this appears to be the wish of the Cabinet, who are determined to maintain the interests of peace.

Prince Nicholas has sent a congratulatory telegram to the new Sultan, wishing him a long, happy, and glorious reign.

No. 460.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 17.)

(Extract.) *Paris, June 16, 1876.*

I WENT this morning to the Duc Decazes, and he had no decided preference with regard to the form in which the concert of the six Powers should be re-established.

The Duc Decazes expressed an anxious desire to understand correctly the exact views of Her Majesty's Government on the present phase of the Eastern question, and he put forward several suppositions on the subject, asking me if they were correct.

I said that it was certainly no part of the system or policy of Her Majesty's Government to take up a position of isolation on Eastern matters. They had indeed found it impossible to assent to the policy indicated in the Berlin Memorandum; but that document had, it appeared, been virtually set aside, at all events action upon it had been indefinitely postponed. There was, therefore, it seemed, no present cause of difference between the views of Her Majesty's Government and those of the other Powers. All the Powers appeared to agree that time should be allowed to the new Sultan to deal with the insurgents by direct negotiation; and while the success or failure of this negotiation remained uncertain, no further step could well be decided upon.

Supposing the negotiation now in progress between the Porte and the insurgents to be successful, and to end in a pacification, the object of the Powers would be attained and there would be no need for them to do or say anything more. Supposing it to fail, the possibility of any effectual interposition of the Powers at that moment seemed very doubtful, unless, indeed, they were prepared (which Her Majesty's Government were not) to use force against one or other of the parties. The views of the two parties would have been shown by the failure of the negotiation to be irreconcileable. The insurgents would in fact have manifested a determination to be content with nothing short of independence or of some sort of autonomy, while the Porte would certainly not concede autonomy in the present state of the struggle.

If either party should obtain a decided advantage over the other, the Powers might, I said in conclusion, be in a position to mediate usefully and effectually, but the time for the mediation did not appear to Her Majesty's Government to have yet arrived.

Having read with great attention, just before I went to the Duc Decazes, the account of the language used by your Lordship in your conversation with Count Schouvaloff, I used as nearly as possible the same language in speaking to the Duc Decazes.

The Duke urged that the hopes of a speedy pacification of Bosnia and the Herzegovina would be very much increased, if it could be made apparent both to the Porte and the insurgents that there was complete accord between the six Powers.

I said that it appeared to me that the success of the present overtures of the Porte to the insurgents depended mainly upon the degree in which Russia and Austria really exercised their influence to restrain Servia and Montenegro. It was, I observed, plain that Montenegro was the focus of the insurrection, while the military efforts of the Turkish forces were baffled by the injunction given to the Porte not to attack that Principality. On the other hand, politically, any arrangement between the Porte and the insurgents was discouraged effectually by the projects continually put forward with the object of making the revolted subjects of the Sultan look to foreign Powers, and not to their own Government for protection and guarantees. I added that, while the insurgent chiefs found a safe retreat and base of operations in Montenegro, and while the prospect of political advantages to be procured for them by foreign Powers was held out to them, it was vain to hope that the districts could be pacified, even though a large number of the inhabitants (as appeared to be the case) were desirous of returning to their homes and willing to submit to the Porte.

The Duke said that he must once more beg me to impress upon Her Majesty's Government his anxious desire that some means might be devised of making a declaration of the union of Great Britain with the other Powers.

I promised to report to your Lordship what he had said.

I send a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople by messenger this evening, under flying seal to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna.

No. 461.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1876, 4·10 P.M.

YOUR Excellency should do your utmost to discourage the idea of fleets being ordered to Constantinople.

No. 462.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, June* 18, 1876, 3 P.M.

I TOOK an opportunity to-day of informing Count Andrassy that Sir H. Elliot feared that the question might be raised whether it might not be expedient, under existing circumstances, to call fleets to Constantinople for the protection of foreigners, a step for which he considered that no sufficient cause was likely to arise. I added that your Lordship had instructed him to discourage its adoption by every means in his power.

No. 463.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, June 8, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd instant, reporting the seizure of the Austrian steamer "Radetzki" on the Danube (by a band of Bulgarians), I have the honour to transmit the accompanying copy of a correspondence between M. Cogalniceano, Minister for Foreign Affairs at Bucharest, and the Governor-General for the Vilayet of the Danube, with regard to the steps taken to prevent a repetition, and showing the good understanding now existing between the Government of these Principalities and the Suzerain Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 463.

M. Cogalniceano to the Governor-General of the Vilayet of the Danube.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 31 Mai, 1876.*

SUR ma demande depuis Giurgevo en amont les bateaux de passagers et de commerce, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, ne toucheront plus rive Bulgare. Sont exemptés les bateaux accélérés. C'est à votre Excellence de m'avertir quand cette disposition peut être revoquée.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.)

AT my demand vessels conveying passengers and merchandize will not, until further orders, touch on the Bulgarian bank above Giurgevo. Express boats are exempted from the operation of this rule. It is for your Excellency to inform me when this order can be recalled.

Inclosure 2 in No. 463.

The Governor-General of Vilayet of the Danube to M. Cogalniceano.

M. le Ministre, *Le 2 Juin, 1876.*

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception du télégramme que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 31 Mai, et je la remercie pour les dispositions qu'elle a si sagement prises au sujet de la non-acceptation des Bulgares à bord des bateaux de passagers et de commerce.

L'insurrection commence à toucher à sa fin si ce n'est que l'incident qui s'est opéré dernièrement à Casladina, situé entre Pahova et Lour. Sur ce le Gouvernement Impérial a décidé la prohibition provisoire des bateaux Autrichiens en général, sauf les accélérés, de toucher les échelles de la rive droite. Cette mesure a été mise en vigueur depuis Mardi passé, et hier d'après un ordre télégraphique que j'ai reçu et à la suite d'une entente entre la Sublime Porte et l'Ambassade Austro-Hongroise à Constantinople, la dite décision a été abolie.

Pourtant je prierai votre Excellence de vouloir bien maintenir pour le moment les dispositions qu'elle a bien voulu prendre jusqu'à ce que je puisse avoir l'honneur de l'avertir.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre, *June 2, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the telegram kindly addressed to me by your Excellency, dated May 21, and I have to thank you for the arrange-

ments you have so wisely made to prevent the reception of Bulgarians on board vessels conveying passengers and merchandize.

The insurrection is drawing to a close, if it be only the affair which has recently been going on at Casladina, a place situated between Pahova and Lour. Under these circumstances the Imperial Government has decided to provisionally prohibit Austrian vessels in general, except express boats, to touch at the ports on the right bank. This measure has been put in force since last Tuesday; and yesterday, in obedience to an order which I received by telegraph, and in consequence of an understanding between the Sublime Porte and the Austro-Hungarian Embassy at Constantinople, the aforesaid decision has been abolished.

I must, however, beg your Excellency to have the kindness for the present to keep in force the arrangements you have made until I have the honour of giving you further information.

Receive, &c.
The Governor-General,
(Signed) M. ASSIM.

No. 464.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 19.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, June 14, 1876.*

IN reply to interpellations addressed to him on Eastern affairs, M. Tisza this morning replied that, as to whether or not the Oriental policy had been pursued with the knowledge and assent of Hungary, "The Hungarian Government recognizes its duty, and had both exercised the lawful influence which devolved upon it, and been met with the greatest forethought on the part of the Foreign Ministry, so that in this respect everything has happened as, according to the spirit of the law, it should happen."

"As regards the actual Eastern question itself and the accomplished transformation in Constantinople, it was impossible to foresee the full results, but I can for my part say that the first result of that transformation justifies the tendency of the Austro-Hungarian policy, inclusive of the Berlin interview which forms part of the interpellation, for that policy had no other aim than to bring about reforms, so that peace might be re-established. And now the Ruler of Turkey himself enters upon reforms."

As regards the future, his Excellency said, "I can answer that the events in Constantinople may change the procedure and the time, according as the one or the other course is there followed; but the main direction of our foreign policy, what has been kept in view from the very beginning, does not alter, and cannot be altered. This direction consists in working in accord with the other European Powers to prevent the disturbance of the peace of Europe under any circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 465.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 15, 1876.*

WITH reference to Mr. St. John's despatch of the 8th instant, on the subject of the seizure by a band of Bulgarians of the Austrian steamer "Radetzky," I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the "Wiener Zeitung" publishes to-day information received from Widdin, from which it appears that the band of insurgents, numbering 200, who effected the seizure, was attacked and all killed by Turkish troops, with the exception of ten who are imprisoned.

Six companies of redifs and two squadrons of cavalry have been since sent to Lom and Rahowa, and two small Turkish armed steamers have been stationed on the

Turkish bank of the Danube, to prevent any landing hereafter of bands from Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 466.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 15, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant, respecting Count Andrassy's wish that the Prince of Montenegro should use his influence with the insurgents to promote the restoration of tranquillity in the Herzegovine, Baron Hofmann told me to-day that no answer has yet been received from Cettigne.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 467.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, June 15, 1876.*

IT is reported this evening from Zara that General Rodich is to proceed from thence to-morrow to the southern district of Dalmatia.

No. 468.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

My Lord, *Vienna, June 17, 1876.*

THE intelligence received here yesterday of the assassination of the Turkish Ministers produced a very painful impression, but the opinion entertained at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was that the deplorable event was entirely attributable to private revenge; and as the only information received to-day refers to the nomination of the successors of the murdered Ministers, it is believed that no mischievous consequences are likely to result from the crime which has been committed.

On the contrary, it is thought that there is reason to hope that the question under discussion at the Porte will be more easily arranged now that the policy of Midhat Pasha will have no longer to contend with the opposition of the late Minister of War.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 469.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 19, 1876.*

I APPROVE the communication made by you to the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs representing the great value attached by Her Majesty's Government to the preservation of peace, and how much the Servian Government would put itself

in the wrong by departing from a pacific policy, as reported in your despatch of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 470.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1876.

I APPROVE your having urged the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs to send a proper reply to the Grand Vizier in answer to his Highness' notification of the accession of Sultan Murad V, as reported in your despatch of the 9th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 471.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 19, 1876.

I HAVE to approve the language used by you in conversation with Prince Wrede upon the subject of urging the Servian Government to adhere to a pacific policy, as reported in your despatch of the 7th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 472.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, June 19.)

M. le Comte, *Ems, le* $\frac{2}{14}$ *Juin*, 1876.

JE réponds à l'expédition confiée par votre Excellence à M. le Comte Adlerberg et qui a précédé votre entretien avec Lord Derby.

Sa Majesté l'Empereur a vu avec satisfaction l'initiative que M. Disraeli a prise vis-à-vis de vous et le retour de confiance qu'il témoigne à notre égard. Nous ne croyons pas en avoir démérité et nous y répondrons avec une complète réciprocité.

Dès l'origine des troubles de l'Orient notre auguste Maître n'a pas eu d'autre but que d'en arrêter le développement et de prévenir une conflagration générale en Turquie. Nous ne croyons pas plus que M. Disraeli à la durée indéfinie de l'état de choses anormal que présente l'Empire Ottoman. Mais rien n'est encore préparé pour le remplacer et sa chute subite risquerait d'ébranler l'Orient et l'Europe. Il était donc désirable de maintenir le *status quo* politique par une amélioration effective du sort des populations Chrétiennes qui nous paraissait et nous paraît encore une condition indispensable de l'existence de l'Empire Ottoman.

Nous avons pensé que ce résultat pourrait être atteint par une entente générale des Grandes Puissances intéressées comme nous à la tranquillité de l'Orient et de l'Europe et par une action conciliatrice qui s'exercerait des deux côtés avec fermeté et modération.

Telle a été la marche que nous avons adoptée et le but que nous n'avons pas cessé de poursuivre. Ces efforts n'ont pas été infructueux puisque la lutte a été circonscrite tout en se prolongeant et l'adhésion des deux parties acquise en principe aux bases de pacification.

Il restait à trouver les garanties indispensables pour amener l'application de ces bases et réaliser l'œuvre de l'apaisement en rendant possible le repatriement des réfugiés et l'exécution des réformes.

Tel a été l'objet de l'échange d'idées qui a eu lieu à Berlin sous la pression des événements et dont le résultat a été porté à la connaissance des autres Cabinets afin d'obtenir leur coopération.

Nous avons vivement regretté la résolution prise par le Cabinet de Londres d'y refuser son concours.

L'efficacité de l'action diplomatique à laquelle nous nous sommes associés reposait sur l'unanimité des Cabinets. A défaut de cette unanimité, qui avait seule pu contenir les passions en présence sur le sol de l'Orient, une explosion était à prévoir,—elle ne s'est pas fait attendre.

Nous nous trouvons aujourd'hui en présence d'une situation nouvelle qu'il est encore difficile d'apprécier.

Au fond, le changement survenu à Constantinople ne nous paraît pas modifier essentiellement les éléments du problême qui se pose devant l'Europe.

Nous croyons qu'aujourd'hui, comme il y a huit mois, il n'y a pas lieu de souhaiter l'explosion d'une crise décisive en Orient, les choses n'étant pas suffisamment mûres pour une solution.

D'autre part l'Europe ne saurait se désintéresser de ces grâves événements qui la touchent de trop près, ni abandonner les choses à leur cours naturel.

Il ne reste donc qu'à reprendre les efforts de pacification.

Si le Cabinet de Londres a en vue des moyens pour y arriver, soit sur les bases déjà proposées, soit par des solutions plus complètes, sans s'exposer à provoquer une conflagration générale, peut-être une guerre d'extermination en Orient, nous sommes prêts à accueillir toute idée dont il nous ferait part avec le sincère désir d'une entente.

En tout cas nous tenons à ce que Lord Derby considère l'exposé qui vous est fait des vues de Sa Majesté l'Empereur comme étant adressé directement au Cabinet de Londres et comme un témoignage du désir de notre Auguste Maître de voir une grande Puissance telle que l'Angleterre occuper la place qui lui est dûe dans le concert Européen.

Vous voudrez bien donner lecture de la présente à M. le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique et lui en laisser copie si son Excellence le désire.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

(Translation.)

M. le Comte, *Ems, June* $\frac{2}{14}$, 1876.

IN answer to the despatch entrusted by your Excellency to Count Adlerberg, and written previous to your conversation with Lord Derby, His Majesty the Emperor has seen with much satisfaction the initiative taken by Mr. Disraeli in answer to your conduct, and the confidence he has again shown towards us. We deem ourselves not undeserving of it, and we shall answer to it with the most complete reciprocity.

From the commencement of the troubles in the East, our august Master's sole aim has been to check their spread, and to prevent a general conflagration in Turkey. We, like Mr. Disraeli, have no belief in the indefinite duration of the abnormal state of things we see in the Ottoman Empire. But, as yet, nothing is prepared to replace it, and were it suddenly to fall, there would be a risk of catastrophes both in the East and in Europe. Thus it is desirable to maintain the political *status quo* by a genuine improvement in the lot of the Christian populations, and this did, and still does, appear to us an indispensable condition of the existence of the Ottoman Empire.

We hold that this result might be attained by a general understanding of the Great Powers interested, like ourselves, in maintaining tranquillity of the East, and in Europe, and in a conciliatory line of action, to be carried on by both sides with firmness and moderation. Such has been the course adopted by us, and the object which we have never ceased to aim at. These efforts have not been without result, since, though the struggle has been prolonged, its extent has been limited, and we have, in principle, gained the adhesion of the two parties interested to the bases proposed for pacification.

It was still necessary to find the guarantees indispensable to the successful practical application of the bases proposed, and successfully to effect a pacification by rendering the return of the refugees to their homes and the execution of the reforms possible.

This was the object of that exchange of ideas which took place at Berlin under pressure of events, and of the result of which other Cabinets were informed in order to obtain their concurrence.

We deeply regretted the resolution taken by the London Cabinet of refusing its co-operation.

The success of the diplomatic action in which we joined together depended on the unanimity of the Cabinets. In default of this unanimity, which alone could restrain the passions raging in the East, an outbreak was to be foreseen; we have not had to wait long for it.

At the present time we are face to face with a new situation, the bearings of which it is difficult to estimate.

In the main, the change which has taken place at Constantinople does not seem to us to work any essential change in the elements of the problem now laid before Europe.

At the present moment, as was the case eight months ago, we see no reason for desiring a decisive crisis in the East, because matters are not sufficiently ripe for a solution.

It would, on the other hand, be impossible for Europe to lose interest in these serious occurrences, which concern her so very closely, and it would be equally impossible to leave matters to take their natural course.

Hence it only remains to resume our efforts for a pacification.

If the London Cabinet has in view any means for obtaining this end, whether on the bases already proposed, or by a more complete solution, without running the risk of stirring up a general conflagration—perhaps even a war of extermination in the East—we are ready to welcome any idea which that Cabinet might communicate to us, for we sincerely desire a good understanding with them.

In any case, we trust Lord Derby will consider the statement we have made to you of the views of His Majesty the Emperor, as addressed directly to the London Cabinet, and asa proof of the desire felt by our august Master to see a great Power like England occupy a place befitting it in the concert of the Great Powers.

Be so good as to read this despatch to Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, and to leave him a copy if his Excellency wishes it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GORTCHAKOW.

No. 473.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 20.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, June 5*, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, accompanying a full translation of the modifications which the Christian Deputies of the General Assembly desire to see introduced into the Organic Law of Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 473.

Consul Sandwith to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, June 5*, 1876.

IN my despatch of the 28th ultimo I had the honour to report to your Excellency the changes which the Christians of Crete, speaking through their chosen representatives, desire to see introduced into the Organic Law.

A translation of the entire Minutes of Proceedings, of which I then gave an extract, I have now the honour to annex, embodied with which is a translation of an address to the Grand Vizier, drawn up in very outspoken language, which forms a sort of "pièce justificative" for their boldness in proposing these changes in the Organic Law. The imperfect manner in which that Law has been carried out, and the abuses of an Administration which have brought about a general and deep-seated discontent, are not obscurely hinted at in this latter document, in which reference is made to the Report addressed to the ex-Sultan by the late Aali Pasha, where that Statesman announced to his sovereign the granting of the Organic Law to Crete. His Highness there speaks

of the new Law as having conferred self-government on the Cretans, the whole Report being much more liberal in its tone than the Law itself, the provisions of which, even if loyally carried out, are far from answering to the idea conveyed by the term "self-government."

Last week having been given up to feasting and rejoicing, the sittings of the General Assembly have been momentarily suspended. The ordinary duties of that body are now to be proceeded with, but the Christian Deputies, I understand, expect an answer to their demands before proceeding to the election of the members of the Administrative Council, the relative numbers of which, as representing the two creeds, the new propositions brought forward by the Christians will materially modify.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 473.

Changes to be introduced into the Organic Law of Crete, as proposed by the Christian Deputies of the General Assembly.

(Traduction.)

Chapitre I.—*Modifications sur le Chapitre I^er du Statut Organique, soumis d'un commun accord par tous les Députés Chrétiens aux Delibérations de l'Assemblée Générale.*

Article 1. L'ASSEMBLEE Générale, ayant pour base la proportion de la population Musulmane et Chrétienne de l'île, est désormais composée des représentants des différents cantons et des trois villes de la Canée, Rethymo, et Candie, lesquels représentants sont convoqués au chef-lieu du vilayet le 1^er Mai de chaque année.

Chaque canton ou ville doit élire quatre Députés dont les deux seront Musulmans et les deux autres Chrétiens, si le canton ou la ville est habité exactement par autant de Musulmans que de Chrétiens; mais si la population d'un canton ou d'une ville appartenant à l'une de ces deux religions est supérieure en nombre à l'autre, dans ce cas la première élira trois Députés et la moins considérable un seul. Les cantons habités exclusivement par des Musulmans ou des Chrétiens, choisiront quatre Députés, qui seront Musulmans ou Chrétiens.

L'Article 2 est compris dans l'Article 1.

Art. 3. Dans chaque canton ou district l'élection des Députés se fait par les Démogérondes des villages convoqués à cet effet le 1^er Avril de la même année par circulaires des Gouverneurs ou sous-Gouverneurs. Le mode d'élection dans les villes sera le même que par le passé et conforme aux usages locaux. Toutes les élections en général doivent être terminées le second Dimanche du mois d'Avril.

Art. 4. La réunion des Démogérondes ainsi que des électeurs dans les villes, ne sera considérée comme légalement et dûment constituée et elle ne pourra procéder à l'élection des Députés, si les deux tiers au moins de ses membres Chrétiens ou Musulmans ne s'y trouveraient présents. Dans le cas contraire, les Gouverneurs ou les Sous-Gouverneurs devront ajourner l'élection jusqu'à l'autre Dimanche, en prévenant les électeurs par écrit que les élections auront absolument lieu, quelque soit le nombre des électeurs présents.

Art. 5. L'Assemblée des Démogérondes dans les cantons comme dans les villes, sera toujours présidée, dans les chefs-lieux de districts ou de cantons, par les Gouverneurs ou les Caïmacams qui, sous aucun prétexte, ne doivent jamais intervenir dans les élections; ils veilleront seulement à l'ordre des discussions, du vote et à la prompte et régulière rédaction des procès-verbaux de l'élection de chaque Député.

Art. 6. Les Démogérondes Chrétiens éliront les Députés Chrétiens et les Démogérondes Musulmans leurs Députés coreligionnaires. L'élection de chaque candidat a lieu séparément par voie de scrutin, et on doit prendre en considération la pluralité des voix.

Art. 7. Les Députés sont élus pour une période de deux ans.

Art. 8. Les Députés qui auront fini leur temps peuvent être réélus pour une autre période. Dans le cas où quelque député donnerait sa démission, viendrait à mourir, ou bien aura été mis, par quelque empêchement, dans l'impossibilité de remplir sa mission, l'Assemblée des Démogérondes devra pourvoir à son remplacement.

Art. 9. Sont éligibles tous ceux qui sont inscrits sur les listes mentionnées dans l'Article 8 du Règlement Administratif et dressées par les Gouverneurs et les sous-

Gouverneurs. Il n'est point indispensable qu'un Député habite dans le canton où il a été élu ; il suffit qu'il soit domicilié en Crète.

Art. 12. Les Députés doivent se réunir à la Canée le 1er Mai de chaque année. Dans le cas où un Député ne se trouvera pas présent à la date susmentionnée, ou il ne s'empresserait pas de justifier son absence par quelque empêchement plausible, le Gouverneur-Général, d'un commun accord avec la majorité de l'Assemblée, doit inviter le Gouverneur ou le sous-Gouverneur de la circonscription à procéder à l'élection d'un autre Député, si le représentant absent continuerait à ne pas comparaître jusqu'au 7 Mai.

Art. 13. Le candidat qui serait élu Député dans deux circonscriptions différentes devra opter pour l'une ou pour l'autre dans l'espace de cinq jours, à dater du jour où il aurait reçu communication du procès-verbal de sa seconde élection. Dans le cas contraire, le Gouverneur-Général et l'Assemblée Générale ordonnent une autre élection conformément à l'Article précédent.

Art. 14. Tous les Députés recevront de la caisse du Gouvernement chacun 1,000 piastres pour chaque session, et 15 piastres par jour depuis le 1er Mai jusqu'au jour où l'Assemblée terminerait ses travaux.

Nul employé recevant un traitement quelconque ne pourra être élu Député, à moins qu'il ne renonce par écrit à son emploi trois mois avant les élections.

Chapitre II.

Art. 15. Le jour fixé pour l'ouverture de l'Assemblée Générale, c'est-à-dire le 1er Mai, les Députés sont convoqués sous la présidence du Gouverneur-Général, qui annonce le commencement des travaux par écrit après avoir reçu les mandats de tous les Députés.

Si la validité de l'élection de quelques Députés venait à être contestée, le Gouverneur-Général et les Députés légalement élus procèdent à la vérification des pouvoirs contestés. Et si l'élection est reconnue valable par la majorité de l'Assemblée, le nom du Député est inscrit sur la liste contenant les noms de ses collègues ; dans le cas contraire, l'élection est annulée et on procède au remplacement du Député irrégulièrement choisi, conformément à l'Article 12.

Art. 16. Les séances de l'Assemblée Générale sont publiques. L'Article 17 reste sans modification.

Art. 18. Les séances générales de l'Assemblée sont présidées par le Gouverneur-Général ou par son Conseiller, en cas d'empêchement. Dans les séances partielles les représentants Chrétiens ou Musulmans choisissent leur Président et leur bureaux.

Art. 19. Les séances générales ou partielles ne peuvent être considérées comme légalement constituées si la moitié plus un des Députés ne s'y trouveraient présents.

Attributions du Président de l'Assemblée.

Art. 20. Le Président de l'Assemblée Générale dirige les séances générales, veille à l'ordre qui y doit régner, donne la parole à chaque Député à tour de rôle et impose silence, s'il y a lieu, aux Députés et à l'auditoire.

Art. 21. Aucun Député ne peut prendre part à la discussion avant de s'être fait inscrire et y avoir été autorisé par la Président.

Art. 22. Lorsqu'il y a divergence d'opinion sur une question quelconque, le Président a recours aux scrutins et la question est résolue par la majorité des voix.

Art. 23. Les discussions se font en Grec et en Turc.

Art. 24. Les procès-verbaux de l'Assemblée, qui seront rédigés en Grec et en Turc, doivent être lus dans la séance suivante et après que l'on aura fait en marge, s'il y a lieu, les corrections nécessaires, on passera à l'examen d'autres questions.

Art. 25. Immédiatement après la vérification des pouvoirs et la constitution légale de l'Assemblée, le Gouverneur-Général et les Députés déposeront sur les bureaux du Président les divers projets qui devront être examinés et discutés durant la session. Ainsi constituée l'Assemblée Générale procède à la formation de Commissions Mixtes composées de sept members pour l'examen de chaque question ; elle fixe aussi, par pluralité de voix et pour cause d'urgence, la discussion sur certaines questions. L'élection des membres du Conseil Administratif et du Tribunal d'Appel auront lieu cinq jours avant la clôture de l'Assemblée. Ces Conseillers et Magistrats seront choisis séparément par leurs députés co-religionnaires.

Art. 26. Chaque session de l'Assemblée Générale doit durer quarante jours ; mais si la majorité de cette Assemblée demande une prorogation de dix jours, on pourra la lui accorder par Ordonnance Impériale.

Chapitre III.—*Compétence de l'Assemblée Générale.*

Art. 27. L'Assemblée Générale est compétente pour examiner et discuter tout ce qui se rapporte directement ou indirectement au bien-être de l'île et à la stricte application de la part du pouvoir exécutif de ses résolutions. L'Assemblée s'occupera aussi de tout ce qui concerne les voies de communication, les travaux d'utilité publique, les fondations de banques agricoles et commerciales, conformément à la teneur du Firman Impérial du 16 Zilhidjé, 1287 (28 Février, 1868), ainsi que d'autres objets qui ont pour but le développement du commerce et de l'industrie, de l'agriculture et de l'instruction publique. L'Assemblée a également le droit de contrôler le budget de l'île pour l'exercice de l'année passée et de l'année prochaine. A l'Article 28 est ajouté seulement, après les mots fonctionnaires religieux, " à l'érection et réparation."

Art. 29. Sans modification, Article 30, idem; Article 31, idem; Article 32, idem.

Art. 33. Un résumé des débats et des procès-verbaux doit être publié par le Secrétaire de l'Assemblée dans le journal officiel du vilayet.

Art. 34. A cet Article est ajouté " toute contravention sera qualifiée par la majorité de l'Assemblée."

Art. . Article dernier. Toutes les fois que la majorité de l'Assemblée croira devoir procéder à la révision et à la modification des présentes lois organiques, l'autorisation lui en sera accordée par Décret Impérial.

Chapitre I.—*Démogérontie centrales Chrétiennes.*

Dans chaque chef-lieu de Gouvernement (Moutessariflik) il y aura une Démogérontie pour les habitants Chrétiens. Chacune de ces Démogérontie est composée du Chef Spirituel du District, qui en est aussi le Président, et de quatre membres choisis pour une période de trois ans, parmi les habitants Chrétiens du district convoqués à cet effet le 1 Avril, et qui doivent élire quatre fondés de pouvoir. Un nombre égal de procureurs est aussi choisi par les villes de la Canée, Rethymo et Candie de la même manière dont sont élus les Députés de l'Assemblée Générale. Tous ces électeurs qui sont convoqués au chef-lieu du district le 20 Avril, procèdent à l'élection des quatre membres qui doivent composer la Démogérontie. Dans les districts où il existe plusieurs siéges épiscopaux, le Président de la Démogérontie sera désigné par son Eminence le Métropolitain.

Les Démogérontie centrales sont réglées uniformément par un règlement qui sera élaboré par les cinq Démogérontie centrales de l'île sous la présidence de Monseigneur le Métropolitain.

Chapitre II.—*Compétence et attributions des Démogérontie Centrales.*

Les Démogérontie Chrétiennes qui seront instituées dans les chefs-lieux des districts auront vis-à-vis de tous les Chrétiens les mêmes attributions que les Démogérontie de villages. Elles doivent principalement juger d'après les lois ecclésiastiques Chrétiens en vigueur tout différence en matière de succession qui surgirait entre Chrétiens sans que le Mehkémé ou l'Efcap puissent en aucune manière y intervenir. Les Démogérontie connaîtront, aussi comme par le passé, de tout ce qui a trait au droit Chrétien sur l'hoirie, comme donations, etc.; elles dresseront les actes de donations et les testaments des Chrétiens, jugeront toutes contestations qui surgiraient entre ces derniers et administreront la fortune pécuniaire des orphelins Chrétiens et de ceux qui se trouvent en état d'interdiction. Les jugements émis par les Démogérontie centrales, dans les limites de leur juridiction et compétence s'ils sont prononcés en dernier ressort, doivent être exécutés par les Tribunaux Civiles de l'île sans aucun délai ni intervention, et sans que le pouvoir exécutif puisse s'ingérer dans tout ce qui se rapport à des questions d'hoirie. Les Démogérontie dont il s'agit décident en dernier ressort tout procès jusqu'à la somme de 5,000 piastres, au contestation dont il ne serait pas possible de déterminer la valeur. Les décisions qui seraient rendues pour une somme dépassant les 5,000 piastres, sont appellables. Pour les jugements de cette catégorie il sera institués un Tribunal d'Appel sous la présidence de son Eminence le Métropolitain de Crète.

L'élection et les attributions des membres de ce Tribunal d'Appel, son siége et la durée de ses travaux, ainsi que les émoluments de ses membres et de son secrétaire, seront fixés dans un autre règlement qui sera élaboré par les membres des cinq Démogérontie et par un délégué spécial de chaque canton qui sera choisi par les habitants. Cette Commission de délégués sera placée sous la présidence du Métropolitain.

Indépendamment de l'appel, les décisions des Démogérontes Centrales pourraient être revoquées par le Conseil National Mixte siégeant auprès du Patriarcat de Constantinople, mais jusqu'à ce que le Tribunal d'Appel sus-mentionné soit institué, les décisions des Démogérontes seront appellables par devant le Patriarcat, comme par le passé.

Les cinq Démogérontes Centrales seront régies par la même procédure civile en vigueur dans les Tribunaux de Première Instance pour ce qui concerne les délais, la révision, la suspension, et les autres formes juridiques.

Articles derniers.

Commes les Mehkémés de cette île n'ont la droit de connaître que seulement de quelques procès entre Musulmans, ils ne pourront, en aucun cas, empiéter sur les attributions et la juridiction ci-dessus indiquées des Démogérontes Centrales Chrétiennes.

La correspondence entre les Démogérontes et les cantons se fera toujours en Grec; en outre tout acte officiel devra leur être communiqué en traduction Grecque dûment légalisée.

Les Démogérontes Chrétiennes ont le droit d'avoir à leur service deux gendarmes payés par le Gouvernement.

Caisses des Orphelins Chrétiens.

La fortune des orphelins est administrée dans chaque district par une caisse spéciale placée sous la surveillance et agissant sous la responsabilité des Démogérontes. Ces caisses seront régies par le règlement qui a été élaboré par les cinq Démogérontes Centrales et soumis à la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

Les obligations pour prêts sur gages des caisses dont il s'agit seront écrites en Grec devant la Démogérontie et sur papier timbré, comme cela se pratique depuis treize ans, sans aucune espèce d'intervention de la part des Mehkémés. Ces obligations devront seulement être légalisées par les Conseils Administratifs des districts, qui y apposeront leurs cachets après avoir fait comparaître les débiteurs et leurs garants. Ainsi légalisés, ces actes auront la même valeur que les hadjets émanés des bureaux du Mehkémé. Cette procédure sera observée jusqu'à l'institution dans l'île des bureaux de notaires mentionées dans les derniers Firmans Impériaux.

Il sera payé par les emprunteurs à l'office des Démogérontes un droit de un sur mille, qui servira à couvrir une partie de frais des Démogérontes et du Tribunal d'Appel qui devra être institué.

Les contrats de location pour les biens immeubles des orphelins et des monastères seront dressés en langue Grecque sur papier timbré; ils devront seulement être légalisés sans frais par les municipalités des districts. Le droit de 5 piastres qui est perçu pour la légalisation et celui de 1 pour cent sera prélevé par les Démogérontes Chrétiennes pour couvrir une partie des frais de ces Démogérontes et du Tribunal d'Appel.

Article dernier.

Pour ce qui concerne seulement les devoirs de tuteurs et la gestion de la fortune des mineurs, les Démogérontes sont placées sous la surveillance immédiate du Conseil Administratif du Gouvernement Général et sous celle prescrite par le Règlement Spécial sur les Démogérontes.

Chapitre I.—*Règlement sur les Conseils Administratifs Mixtes.*

Article 1. Sans modification.

Art. 2. Idem.

Art. 3. Idem.

Art. 4. Idem.

Art. 5. La gestion des affaires administratives pour toute l'île en général est confiée à un Gouverneur-Général nommée par Ordonnance Impériale et choisi parmi les fonctionnaires Musulmans ou Chrétiens Orthodoxes de la Sublime Porte. L'administration des districts ou Moutessarrifliks est confiée à des Gouverneurs nommés également par Ordonnance Impériale et dont la moitié sont choisis parmi les fonctionnaires Musulmans et l'autre moitié parmi les fonctionnaires Chrétiens de l'Empire

Chaque canton est administré par un Caïmacam nommé par le Gouvernement Impérial et choisi parmi ses employés Chrétiens ou Musulmans. Ces sous-Gouverneurs devront être nommé toujours sur la base du nombre des habitants des deux races; ils peuvent être déplacés, en cas de besoin, sur la proposition du Gouverneur, adopté par le Conseil Administratif.

Dans les cantons dont la population est entièrement Chrétienne ou Musulmane, les Caïmacams seront Chrétiens ou Musulmans.

Art. 6. Sans modification.

Art. 7. Le Gouverneur-Général est assisté d'un Conseil Administratif et d'un Conseiller nommé par Ordonnance Impériale et qui remplace le Gouverneur-Général en cas d'empêchement. Si le Gouverneur-Général est Musulman, son Conseiller doit être Chrétien, et si le Gouverneur-Général est Chrétien Orthodox son Conseiller doit être Musulman. Et comme le Gouvernement de la Canée n'a point de Gouverneur ni de Conseil Administratif, c'est le Gouverneur-Général et le Conseil Administratif du Vilayet qui rempliront ces fonctions.

Art. 8. Chaque Gouverneur de district a auprès de lui un Conseil Administratif et un Aide, qui remplace le Gouverneur en cas de besoin, et est nommé par Décret Impérial. L'Aide du Gouverneur Musulman doit être Chrétien, et celui du Gouverneur Chrétien doit être Musulman. Et puisque le canton où réside le Gouverneur n'aura point de Caïmacam ni de Conseil Administratif spécial, le Gouverneur doit remplir les fonctions de Caïmacam et son Conseil tiendra lieu de Conseil Cantonal.

Art. 9. Sans modification.

Art. 10. Idem.

Chapitre II.—*Elections et Attributions du Conseil Administratif du Gouvernement Général.*

Art. 11. Le pouvoir exécutif appartient exclusivement au Governeur-Général, qui doit l'exercer avec l'assistance des Governeurs, sous-Gouverneurs et Démogérondes, conformément aux lois de l'Empire, ou statut organique, et aux instructions qu'il aurait reçues.

Art. 12. Le Conseil Administratif qui se trouve placé sous la présidence du Gouverneur-Général ou de son Conseiller, est composé de six membres élu par l'Assemblée Générale, et dont les quatre doivent être Chrétiens et les deux autres Musulmans. La moitié de ces membres tant Musulmans que Chrétiens est renouvellée chaque année.

Art. 13. Le Conseil Administratif ne pourra sous aucun prétexte exercer aucune des fonctions du pouvoir exécutif ou judiciaire. Ses attributions doivent être purement administratives. D'après le principe qui doit régler les rapports et les devoirs entre le Conseil Administratif et le Gouverneur-Général, l'action, l'exécution, l'initiative, la correspondence directe avec les autorités subalternes, ainsi que l'émission des ordres, appartiennent exclusivement au Gouverneur-Général; tandis que d'un autre côté, la discussion, la délibération et la décision sur les objets judiciaires, entrent dans les attributions du Conseil Administratif sus-mentioné. Par conséquent lorsqu'il ne s'agit pas de l'exécution pure et simple de quelque disposition de loi générale de l'Etat ou de quelque règlement spéciale concernant la Crète, mais de mesures qui demandent à être discutées, examinées et arrêtées, ces mesures doivent être soumises au Conseil Administratif.

Art. 14. D'après ce qui précède, le Conseil aura le droit de discuter, avant leur mise en exécution, toutes les mesures administratives qui peuvent avoir ou non une durée déterminée. Aucune mesure administrative, telle que organisation de municipalités, d'établissements de bienfaisance, constructions, ou suppression de marchés ou de cimetières, achat, vente, échange ou cession provisoire des terrains ou propriétés publiques, le soin de faire revenir les habitants qui se sont expatriés, les récompenses promises pour cet effet, &c., aucune de ces mesures ne doit être exécutée dans l'île directement ou indirectement par les Gouverneurs ou sous-Gouverneurs avant d'avoir été préalablement discutée et arrêtée par la majorité du Conseil Administratif. Ce Conseil peut modifier, s'il le juge nécessaire, les mesures proposées par le Gouverneur à ce sujet. Les ordres ainsi discutés ou modifiés seront mis sans retard en exécution par le Gouverneur-Général, à moins que leur sanction par le Gouvernement Impérial ne soit indispensable. Dans le cas où le Gouverneur-Général croirait devoir ordonner l'exécution de quelqu'un des ordres ci-dessus mentionnés, sans accepter les modifications qui y auront été apportées par le Conseil Administratif, ou malgré que l'ordre a été rejeté par ce Conseil,

le Gouverneur-Général ne pourra alors procéder à l'exécution de cet ordre qu'en y étant autorisé par une Ordonnance Impériale.

Le Gouverneur-Général peut former au sein du Conseil Administratif des Commissions chargées d'examiner les objets susindiqués, et d'en faire un Rapport qui doit être soumis à ce Conseil.

Art. 15. Sans modification.

Art. 16. Idem.

Art. 17. Le Conseil Administratif du vilayet repartira par Gouvernements tous les impôts directs dont la perception aura été ordonnée par quelque loi ou décision légale de l'Assemblée Générale de l'île ; il réglera aussi le mode de perception des impôts directs fixé par cette même Assemblée, et approuvée conformément à l'Article 13 du Firman Impérial qui accompagne le Statut Organique.

Art. 18. Sans modification.

Art. 19. Idem.

Art. 20. Le Conseil dont il s'agit doit présenter et justifier devant l'Assemblée Générale le Budget de l'année passée et prochaine, en général pour toutes les dépenses, recettes, et frais extraordinaires de l'île ; le Budget sera rédigé en Grec et en Turc.

Art. 21. Sans changement.

Art 22. Idem.

Art. 23. Le Conseil Administratif est spécialement chargé de recueillir tous les éléments propres à constituer un travail statistique exact et régulier pour toute l'île, qui sera publié chaque année par le journal du vilayet.

Art. 24. Ce Conseil susmentionné a le droit de faire des observations au Gouverneur-Général toutes les fois que ce dernier s'écarterait de ses devoirs ci-dessus indiqués envers le Conseil.

Art. 25. Sans changement.

Art. 26. Idem.

Art. 27. Idem.

Art. 28. Aucune séance ni décision de ce Conseil ne pourra être considérée comme légale si la moitié plus un au moins de ses membres ne prendraient part aux délibérations.

Art. 29. Les Membres du Conseil Administratif sont élus par l'Assemblée Générale ; les Musulmans doivent choisir les Conseillers Musulmans, et les Chrétiens les leur parmi les habitants les plus capables de l'île. La durée de leur service est de deux ans.

Art 30. Sans modification.

Art. 31. La moitié des Membres du Conseil seront remplacés chaque année.

Art. 32. Sans changement.

Art. 33. Les Membres du Conseil Administratif du vilayet recevront chacun 1,250 piastres per mois.

Article dernier.

Les Caïmacams, leurs aides, les Présidents de Tribunaux, les Premiers Secrétaires du Gouvernement Général et des sous-Gouvernements, les Procureurs et sous-Procureurs, ainsi que les Juges d'Instruction, doivent être nommés par les autorités compétentes, par Ordonnance Impériale, et sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général et de la majorité du Conseil Administratif. Les employés subalternes seront nommés par le Gouverneur-Général et le Conseil Administratif, sur la proposition du Gouverneur et du Conseil Administratif de leur districts. Les Caïmacams et leurs mouavins doivent être pris parmi les habitants les plus honorables et les plus capables de l'île, et parmi ceux qui se distinguent par l'intégrité de leur caractère ; ils doivent surtout avoir de l'instruction.

Chapitre III.—*Elections et Attributions des Conseils Administratifs de Gouvernements et sous-Gouvernements.*

Art. 34. Dans les districts dont la population est mixte les Conseils Administratifs sont formés par le Gouverneur ou Président et par six membres élus par les habitants Chrétiens et Musulmans de tout le district de la manière suivante :—

Dans les districts dont la population est mixte d'une manière égale, il y aura trois membres de chaque religion ; et là où les habitants de l'une des deux religions sont supérieures en nombre, ceux-ci éliront quatre membres et les autres qui seront en

minorité seulement deux. Dans les districts habités exclusivement par des Chrétiens ou par des Musulmans tous les six membres doivent être Chrétiens ou Musulmans.

Art. 35 Les Conseils de Cantons présidés par le Caïmacam se composent de lui et de six membres Chrétiens ou Musulmans habitant le canton. Leur élection se fera sur la base qui a été fixée pour l'élection des membres des Conseils de Gouvernements.

Art. 36. Les Gouverneurs et les sous-Gouverneurs bien qu'ayant une juridiction déterminée et qu'ils représentent le Gouverneur-Général, néanmoins toutes les fois qu'il s'agira de mesures qui échappent à leur compétence, ils sont tenu de soumettre ces mesures à l'examen et à la décision du Conseil Administratif du Gouvernement ou du sous-Gouvernement, qui décide par majorité.

Art. 37. Les Conseils des Gouvernements et des sous-Gouvernements ne doivent sous aucun prétexte s'immiscer dans les affaires judiciaires.

Art. 38. Au contraire si la mesure que veut appliquer le Gouverneur ou le sous-Gouverneur est de celles qui exigent un examen et une discussion préalables, les Gouverneurs en décideront d'un commun accord avec la majorité du Conseil la mesure, fût elle-même adoptée par le Gouverneur-Général et son Conseil, conformément aux Arts. 13-21. Et de même que les Caïmacams dépendent hiérarchiquement des Gouverneurs, de même les Conseils des Cantons dépendent des Conseils de Districts. Par conséquent lorsqu'il s'agit de mesures qui n'appartiennent pas exclusivement au pouvoir exécutif, les Gouverneurs et Caïmacams sont tenus de les soumettre à la délibération de leur Conseil.

Art. 39. Sans modification.

Art. 40. Idem.

Art. 41. Idem.

Chapitre IV.—*Elections et Attributions des Conseils de Gouvernements et de sous-Gouvernements.*

Art. 42. Les membres des Conseils de Gouvernements et ceux du Tribunal Mixte du District sont élus par les habitants des cantons et des villes par l'entremise de quatre délégués choisi par les habitants de chaque canton ou ville, qui se réunissent à cet effet dans le chef-lieu du canton ou dans la ville le premier Dimanche du mois d'Avril. Tous ces délégués réunis le troisième Dimanche du mois d'Avril dans le chef-lieu du Gouvernement, procèdent à l'élection des membres du Conseil Administratif et du Tribunal Mixte par pluralité de voix, après toutefois que chaque ville ou canton aura désigné quelques candidats parmi ceux dont les noms sont inscrits sur les catalogues des villes et des cantons. L'élection doit se faire de manière à satisfaire chaque ville et chaque canton. Les électeurs Chrétiens choisissent les membres Chrétiens et les Musulmans les leurs. L'élection des membres des Conseils de cantons, tant Musulmans que Chrétiens, doit être faite par les Démogérondes convoqués au chef-lieu du canton le second Dimanche du mois d'Avril.

Art. 43. La durée des fonctions des membres du Conseil de Gouvernements et de sous-Gouvernements est de deux ans; ils sont remplacés par moitié et à tour de rôle chaque année et reçoivent, ceux des Conseils de districts un traitement de 750 piastres par mois, et ceux des Conseils de cantons 200 piastres.

Composition, Attributions, et devoirs des Démogéronties de Villages.

N.B.—L'Article 66 du Chapitre XI du Règlement sur les Tribunaux Mixtes, est transféré au Chapitre IV du Règlement sur les Conseils Administratifs Mixtes.

Art. 44. Chaque village doit être directement administré par une Démogérontie. Les limites de chaque village seront fixées par la Loi Communale qui sera élaborée.

N.B.—L'Article 68 du Chapitre XII du Règlement sur les Tribunaux Mixtes, est transféré au Chapitre IV du Règlement sur les Conseils Administratifs Mixtes.

Art. 45. Pour ce qui concerne la partie judiciaire, les Démogéronties de villages constituent une autorité arbitrale dont les décisions ne sont valable qu'autant que les parties en litige auront consenti par écrit à se soumettre à l'arbitrage de la Démogérontie. Dans tous les cas les décisions émanées de ces Démogéronties de villages ne sont exécutoires qu'après avoir été légalisées par le Tribunal Mixte du canton dont fait partie le village.

Art. 46. Une loi spéciale devra fixer les limites des Communes.

L'Assemblée Générale doit soumettre au Gouvernement Impérial un Projet de Loi Communale, mais jusqu'à la promulgation de cette loi, les villages seront administrés comme par le passé par les Démogéronties.

Supplément.

Comme la grande majorité des habitants Chrétiens et Musulmans ne sachant pas la langue Turque, parle en général le Grec, cette dernière langue sera introduite également comme le Turc dans tous les bureaux publics, tribunaux, et conseils. Par conséquent le nombre d'écrivains Chrétiens dans ces bureaux sera égal à celui des Musulmans, afin que tous les documents, sans exception, tels que sentences, procès-verbaux, enquêtes, et tout autre travail d'écriture soient aussi rédigés en Grec.

Pour cette même raison tous les ordres administratifs ou judiciaires seront également rédigés en Grec.

La direction de ce travail est confiée, dans chaque district, à un Secrétaire-Général Chrétien possédant cette langue. Vu le besoin toujours croissant de donner plus de développement à l'instruction publique, le Gouvernement Impérial, outre la subvention de 3,000 piastres par mois qu'il a alloué aux écoles de la Canée, Rothymo, Candia, Sphakia, et Lass'thi, prêtera aussi tout son appui moral à l'extension des lumières en exhortant et en stimulant le zèle des habitants par l'entremise des Gouverneurs, et surtout des Caïmacams. Ils s'ensuit que l'instruction doit être obligatoire pour les enfants au-dessus de cinq ans et pour ceux qui n'auront pas encore dépassé leur quatorzième année, sous peine d'amende imposée aux parents ou tuteurs de ces enfants par les Conseils des Cantons.

Tous les procès civiques ayant trait à des terres en friche, à des prairies, ou à des droits de voisinage (pavalés) seront jugés par les Conseils Mixtes sans que le Mehkémé ait jamais à y intervenir.

Conformément au dernier Firman Impérial relatif aux réformes, il sera institué dans l'île un nombre suffisant d'offices de notaires qui seront chargés de dresser tous les titres de propriétés, transferts, actes d'hypothèques, et en général tout autre document notaire, sans aucune espèce d'emmixtion de la part du Mehkémé ou de l'Ercaf.

Le corps de gendarmerie sera composé, en proportion de la population, de simples soldats et d'officiers Chrétiens et Musulmans indigène jusqu'au grade de Colonel (Miralai).

Nul n'est frappé d'exil et ne subit un emprisonnement préventif sans une décision judiciaire.

Les blasphèmes ou offences contre la religion d'une des races habitant dans l'île, cas qui étaient jusqu'ici punis de bannissement, seront désormais jugés par les tribunaux réguliers et punis d'après le Code Pénal; la peine du bannissement sera par conséquent abolie.

Tous les enfants trouvés, à quelque religion qu'ils appartiennent, sont entretenus jusqu'à leur sevrage aux frais du Gouvernement.

La Caisse Publique doit aussi pourvoir aux frais d'enterrement des pauvres qui meurent dans l'île, comme cela se pratique pour les Musulmans.

Le Gouvernement ne doit rien négliger pour le développement du commerce, de l'industrie et de l'agriculture. Il poursuivra par conséquent activement la construction des routes centrales, de ponts et la réparation des principaux ports de l'île. Dans ce but il sera affecté annuellement des revenues de l'île une somme suffisante pour les travaux publics conformément au Firman Impérial qui accompagne le Statut Organique.

Le commerce sera aussi l'objet de toute la sollicitude du Gouvernement, qui aura soin de bien organiser les Tribunaux de Commerce dans les villes pour la prompte expédition et l'équitable solution des affaires commerciales.

On fera également tous les efforts possibles pour développer l'agriculture, en instituant surtout une police rurale afin de prévenir les dommages et les dégats qui sont occasionnés aux agriculteurs.

Le Gouvernement accordera des priviléges suffisants aux fondateurs d'établissements industriels ou de banques agricoles et commerciales dans l'île.

Les décisions émanées des autorités ecclésiastiques du pays dans les limites de leur compétence, et sur des affaires purement spirituelles ou ecclésiastiques, seront exécutées par les autorités civiles sans aucune espèce d'intervention, conformément d'ailleurs aux dispositions du Hatti-Houmaïun et des bérats dont sont munis le Patriarche et les Archevêques. On prêtera en outre aux autorités ecclésiastiques toute assistance possible dans les limites des rapports qui doivent exister entre les autorités civiles et religieuses et qui sont consacrés par les lois.

Attendu que le Dieu adoré dans les mosquées est le même Dieu tout-puissant qui est aussi adoré dans les églises des Chrétiens, ces derniers peuvent en toute liberté ériger, réparer et restaurer leurs temples notamment les chapelles en ruines qui sont

disseminées dans les champs. Et pour prévenir des inconvénients la délimitation de ces temples et l'entendue de leurs enceintes seront fixées par le Conseil Administratif du Vilayet.

Une pleine et entière liberté de conscience est laissée à tous les habitants de l'île d'après la teneur du Hatti-Houmaïun ; par conséquent l'expatriation forcée qui était infligée aux rénégats, est désormais abolie.

L'âge de majorité pour les mineurs est fixé à vingt-un ans, et ce n'est qu'à cet âge qu'un jeune homme ou une jeune fille peuvent être admis à faire la déclaration de leur apostasie, après avoir toutefois passé quelques jours chez le chef spirituel de la religion à laquelle appartenait le rénégat avant son abjuration.

Attendu que le privilége de se gouverner eux-mêmes accordé aux habitants de l'île leur donne assurément le droit d'avoir une Administration Nationale, on aura soin d'appeler aussi aux importantes fonctions administratives, telles que celles de secrétaires généraux et de collecteurs, les indigènes Chrétiens et Musulmans dont la capacité, l'honorabilité et l'instruction ne laisseraient rien à désirer.

Tous les réfugiés Crétois se trouvant en Grèce ou ailleurs, et qui ont été expatriés sans un jugement préalable des tribunaux du pays, retourneront tous sans exception dans leurs foyers. Leurs propriétés leur seront restituées quand même il y en aurait parmi eux qui auront changé de religion.

L'institution d'imprimeries et de syllogues ainsi que la publication de journaux particuliers sont autorisées dans l'île, conformément aux lois en vigueur de l'Empire.

Toute Ordonnance ou Ordre Véziriel qui contreviedrait les présentes lois organiques ne saurait être désormais exécuté dans l'île de Crète.

Pour assurer la fidèle et rigoureuse exécution des présentes lois il sera procédé à un récensement général de tous les habitants de l'île d'après la loi communale qui sera élaborée par l'Assemblée Générale.

Règlement sur les Tribunaux Mixtes.

Chapitre I.—*Composition des Tribunaux Mixtes dans les Cantons.*

Article 1. Chaque Canton aura un tribunal mixte.

Art. 2. Ces tribunaux seront composés d'un président et de quatre juges.

Art. 3. Les présidents des sus-dits tribunaux sont nommés, destitués et rétribués directement par le Gouvernement Impérial par Ordonnance Impériale conformément à l'Article dernier, Chapitre II, des présentes Lois Organiques sur l'élection et la juridiction du Conseil Administratif du Vilayet.

Art. 4. Les membres de ces tribunaux sont choisis parmi les personnes dont les noms figurent sur les listes dressées par les Caïmacams et les Gouverneurs.

Art 5. Le Caïmacam ou le Gouverneur dressera à cet effet une liste nominative de tous les habitants de son canton qui, ayant accompli leur vingt-cinquième année, ne sont pas compris dans les cas ci-après indiqués qui entrainent la récusation.

Art. 6. Sont récusables et ne peuvent être inscrits sur la liste dont il s'agit :

1°. Tous ceux qui ne savent ni lire ni écrire.

2°. Les domestiques.

3°. Ceux qui ont été entièrement ou en partie privés de leurs droits civiques conformément à la loi pénale et par décision judiciaire.

4°. Tous ceux qui ayant fait faillite n'ont pas été réhabilités par décision judiciaire.

5°. Tous ceux qui ne jouissent pas de toutes leurs facultés intellectuelles ou qui sont en tutelle.

6°. Ceux qui sont accusés de quelque crime ou délit et les contumaces.

7°. Ceux qui ont été condamnés pour crime, vol, gain illicite, abus de confiance, corruption de mœurs, ou pour tout autre délit et qui ont subi un emprisonnement de plus d'une année.

Art. 7. Ne peuvent être également portés sur la liste sus-indiquée les employés civils au militaires payés par le Gouvernement.

Art. 8. Cette liste doit être publiée et affichée le 1er Mai de chaque année ; elle doit être écrite en Grec et en Turc. (La suite de cette Article reste sans changement.)

Art. 9. Seront effacés chaque année de la liste les noms des individus morts l'année dernière. (Le reste sans modification.)

Art. 10. Le 1er Avril le sous-Gouverneur invitera les habitants Chrétiens et Musulmans de chaque canton à procéder à l'élection des quatre membres du Tribunal Mixte. L'élection se fera toujours sur la base de la majorité de la population Chrétienne et Musulmane de chaque canton et parmi les personnes inscrites sur les catalogues. Mais dans les cantons habités exclusivement par des Chrétiens ou par des Musulmans, les juges susmentionnés doivent être tous Chrétiens ou Musulmans. Le procès-verbal de l'élection sera cacheté par le Caïmacam et copie légalisée devra en être transmise au Président au Tribunal Mixte pour être déposée dans ses archives.

Art. 11. Les membres de ces tribunaux de cantons recevront un traitement mensuel de piastres 450. La durée de leur service sera d'un an.

Au commencement de chaque année, le Président du Tribunal Mixte du canton aura soin de publier un programme où seront indiqués les jours et heures de travail du Tribunal pour toute l'année. Ce programme doit être légalisé par le Tribunal devant lequel sont appelées les décisions du Tribunal Cantonal.

Art. 12. Sans changement.

Chapitre II.—*Composition des Tribunaux Mixtes de Gouvernements.*

Art. 13. Sans modification.

Art. 14. Idem.

Art. 15. Les Présidents de ces Tribunaux sont nommés, destitués et rétribués directement par le Gouvernement Impérial, d'après l'Article dernier du Chapitre II relatif à l'élection et à la juridiction du Conseil du Vilayet.

Art. 16. Les membres des susdits Tribunaux sont élus d'après les prescriptions de l'Article 14 du Chapitre III du présent Statut Organique sur l'élection et la juridiction des Conseils Administratifs des Gouvernements et des sous-Gouvernements.

Art. 17. Cet Article a été supprimé.

Art. 18. Les quatre juges ainsi choisis par les électeurs Chrétiens et Musulmans devront servir pendant deux ans, après lesquels on procède à d'autres élections. Dans le cas ou quelqu'un parmi eux viendrait à mourir ou à donner sa démission, on en choisira un autre de la manière ci-dessus indiquée.

Art. 19. Sans changement.

Art. 20. Les membres des Tribunaux Mixtes des Gouvernements ("Moutessarrifliks") recevront chacun un traitement de 9,600 piastres par an.

Au commencement de chaque année le Président du Tribunal Mixte fixera dans un programme les heures et jours de travail du Tribunal pour toute l'année. Ce programme devra être légalisé par le Président du Tribunal d'Appel du Vilayet.

Art. 21. Sans changement.

Chapitre III.—*Organisation du Tribunal Mixte d'Appel siégeant dans le Chef-lieu du Vilayet.*

Art. 22. Dans le chef-lieu du vilayet il y aura un Tribunal Mixte d'Appel.

Art. 23. Sans modification.

Art. 24. Le Président de ce Tribunal Supérieur est choisi, destitué et rétribué directement par le Gouvernement Impérial et de la manière indiquée dans l'Article dernier, Chapitre II, relatif à l'élection et à la juridiction du Conseil Administratif du Vilayet.

Art. 25. Les membres de ce Tribunal d'Appel seront élus par l'Assemblée Générale; il y en aura deux de chaque religion. Les Députés Chrétiens éliront séparément les deux juges Chrétiens et les Députés Musulmans leur deux juges coreligionnaires, conformément à l'Article 25 du Chapitre II relatif à la session annuelle de l'Assemblée Générale. La durée des fonctions de ces magistrats sera de trois ans.

Art. 26. Cet Article a été supprimé.

Art. 27. Sans changement.

Art. 28. Chacun des juges ci-dessus mentionnés recevra 1,500 piastres par mois.

Art. 29. Sans changement.

Art. 30. Idem.

Chapitre IV.—*Juridiction Générale et Spéciale des Tribunaux Mixtes de différentes degrés siégeant dans le Chef-lieu du Vilayet.*

Art. 31. Sans modification.

Juridiction Générale.

Art. 32. Sans changement.
Art. 33. Idem.
Art. 34. Idem.
Art. 35. Idem.

Chapitre V.—*Juridiction des Tribunaux Mixtes de Gouvernements.*

Art. 36. Les Tribunaux Mixtes de Gouvernements jugent en premier ressort—
(1.) Les procès de leur juridiction conformément à l'Article 32 du Chapitre IV du Statut Organique, relatif à la juridiction générale des Tribunaux Mixtes du Gouvernement.
(2.) Sans changement
Art. 37. Sans changement.
Art. 38. Idem.

Chapitre VI.—*Juridiction Spéciale des Tribunaux Mixtes de divers degrés.*

Art. 39. Sans modification, il y est seulement ajouté: "Les affaires de succession, tant que le partage n'aura pas été fait, sont portées par les créanciers devant les Démogérontics Centrales du lieu où était domicilié le défunt, lors même que ce dernier serait en état de faillite." Le reste de l'Article n'a pas subi de changement.
Art. 40. Sans modification.

Chapitre VII.—*Prescriptions applicables aux Tribunaux de tout degré.*

Art. 41. Sans modification.
Art. 42. Idem.
Art. 43. Sans modification.
Art. 44. Idem.
Art. 45. Tous les jugements rendus par les Tribunaux Mixtes devront être exécutés par des huissiers expérimentés appartenant aux deux religions, après que les présidents auront revêtu les décisions du Décret suivant: "Il est enjoint à tout huissier d'exécuter la présente et aux autorités civiles et militaires d'y prêter leur assistance en cas de besoin." De leur côté, le Gouverneur-Général, les Gouverneurs et les sous-Gouverneurs, ordonneront l'exécution de ces jugements par l'injonction: "Qu'il soit exécuté." Toute instance légale contre le jugement sera examinée par le Tribunal qui aura rendu la décision.
Art. 46. Le Conseil Administratif du Vilayet fixera les droits judiciaires qui devront être perçus sur tous les procès jugés par les Tribunaux Mixtes.
Art. 47. Sans modification.
Art. 48. Idem.
Art. 49. Idem.
Art. 50. Idem.

Articles derniers.

L'élection et la nomination des Présidents des Tribunaux Mixtes dans les cantons devront se faire sur la base de toute la population de l'île. Les Caïmacams ainsi que les Présidents pourront être déplacés sur la proposition des Conseils Administratifs approuvée par la majorité du Conseil Administratif du Vilayet, conformément à l'Article dernier du Chapitre II relatif à l'élection et à la juridiction du Conseil Administratif du Vilayet. Dans les cantons dont la population est exclusivement Chrétienne ou Musulmane, les Présidents seront tous Chrétiens ou Musulmans. Mais dans les chefs-lieux des Gouvernements, c'est à-dire là où les Gouverneurs sont Musulmans, tous les Présidents des Tribunaux seront Chrétiens, et là ou les Gouverneurs sont Chrétiens les Présidents devront être Musulmans.

Aucun Naïb ne pourra être nommé Président d'un des principaux Tribunaux de l'île.

Il y aura des Procureurs, des sous-Procureurs, et des Juges d'Instruction auprès de chaque Tribunal de l'Ile. Le Tribunal d'Appel aura un Procureur et un sous-Procureur. Auprès de chaque Tribunal Mixte il y aura un Procureur et un Juge d'Instruction, conformément à l'Article dernier du Chapitre II, relatif à l'élection et à la juridiction du Conseil Administratif du Vilayet.

Chapitre VIII.—*Tribunaux de Commerce.*

Art. 51. Sans changement.
Art. 52. Idem.
Art. 53. Idem.
Art. 54. Les Présidents des Tribunaux sus-mentionnés sont nommés, destitués et rétribués directement par le Gouvernement Impérial, d'après les prescriptions de l'Article dernier du Chapitre II, relatif à l'élection et à la juridiction du Conseil Administratif du Vilayet.
Art. 55. Sans changement.
Art. 56. Idem.
Art. 57. Idem.
Art. 58. Idem.
Art. 59. La durée du service des membres des Tribunaux de Commerce sera de deux ans ; mais ils peuvent être réélus pour une autre période. En cas de décès ou de démission, les électeurs Chrétiens et Musulmans pourvoiront au remplacement du Juge décédé ou démissionnaire.
Art. 60. Sans changement.
Art. 61. Idem.
Art. 62. Les Juges du Tribunal de Commerce recevront chacun 4,800 piastres par an.

Chapitre IX.—*Compétence des Tribunaux de Commerce.*

Art. 63. Sans changement.
Art. 64. Les jugements rendues par les Tribunaux de Commerce seront exécutés conformément à l'Article 45 du Chapitre VIII.
Art. 65. Sans modification.

Article dernier.

La clause des agriculteurs est comprise dans les prescriptions de l'Article 39 du Chapitre X, relatif à la juridiction spéciale des Tribunaux Mixtes de différentes degrés.

Article Additionnel.

Les membres du Tribunal d'Appel, les Procureurs, sous-Procureurs, et les Juges d'Instruction, doivent être des personnes instruites, capables, expérimentées et honorables ; ils doivent aussi parler la langue Grecque. Les Présidents doivent avoir de l'instruction, de l'expérience et de l'intégrité.

Action contre des Juges au des employés judiciaires en général.

Lorsqu'un Juge ou un employé judiciaire aura causé, dans l'exercice de ces fonctions, quelque préjudice aux intérêts d'une des parties en litige, soit par négligence ou de propos délibéré, soit par déni de justice, etc., si l'inculpé est Président d'un Tribunal Mixte ou Juge, il sera cité devant le Tribunal d'Appel à la Canée, et s'il est Président ou membre du Tribunal d'Appel, il sera justiciable de la Cour de Cassation siégeant à Constantinople, où il sera condamné à indemniser la partie lésée. Le demandeur pourra se réserver le droit de poursuivre ultérieurement l'accusé devant les Tribunaux réguliers, conformément à l'Article 103 et les suivants du Chapitre VI du Code Pénal. On en agira de même à l'égard de tout employé civil.

Adresse des Membres Chrétiens de l'Assemblée Générale de la Crète à son Altesse le Grand Vézir.

Altesse, *Canée, le* $\frac{16}{28}$ *Mai,* 1876.

Il est incontestable que ni l'agriculture, ni l'industrie, ni l'instruction publique, ni aucune œuvre d'utilité publique, ne saurait se développer et faire des progrès dans un pays privé d'institutions qui règlent les relations entre gouvernants et administrés et qui répondent aux besoins de ces œuvres d'utilité générale ; dans un pays dépourvu d'Administration composée de personnes honnêtes, intelligentes, éclairées et spéciales dans chaque branche du service ; en un mot, d'une Administration comprenant sa mission, remplissant fidèlement son devoir et exécutant avec impartialité et franchise les lois établies et les ordres et instructions qui lui sont transmis.

Sans ces conditions essentielles, nulle amélioration, nul progrès n'est jamais

possible. Toute action est paralysée par la marche irrégulière, sciemment ou involontairement adoptée par les gouvernants; la confiance si utile et indispensable des administrés envers le pouvoir est anéantie, la confusion et le désordre règnent partout, et ce triste état de choses ne tarde pas à avoir pour conséquence naturelle et inévitable une malaise et un relâchement général qui entrainent les maux et les calamités incalculables de la réaction.

Il n'est donc pas surprenant que la population de cette île ait vu avec regret le soin que les Gouverneurs-Généraux ont toujours mis à ne pas laisser les représentants du peuple sortir des limites étroites qu'on leur avait assignées et qui, d'après ces fonctionnaires, se résumeraient dans les mots commerce, agriculture, industrie et instruction publique; comme si le succès de ces œuvres pouvait dépendre de la seule évocation de ces mots ou de la seule expression d'un vœu, comme si toutes ces promesses pouvaient être réalisées sans bonne volonté, sans les organes et les moyens nécessaires, et que le progrès ou la prospérité d'un pays pût être obtenu sans une bonne administration et de bonnes institutions !

Mais l'expérience n'est-elle pas là pour nous dire que ce système de restriction imposé aux délégués du peuple pendant les sessions précédentes de l'Assemblée Générale, n'a jamais contribué à améliorer le mauvais état du pays et qu'on s'est épuisé en vains efforts pour trouver un remède aux phénomènes symptomatiques du mal sans avoir jamais songé à le combattre dans sa racine ou à en chercher la cause primordiale: que de fois les Députés n'ont-ils pas fixé l'attention des autorités sur l'état défectueux et précaire de plusieurs œuvres d'utilité publique. Que de fois n'ont-ils pas indiqué les moyens d'y remédier et n'y ont-ils pas invoqué la sollicitude et l'équité du Gouvernement ! Que de fois n'ont-ils pas demandé l'exacte et sincère application des lois en vigueur !

Si on se donnait la peine de jeter un coup d'œil sur les demandes soumis par les représentants des différents cantons, si l'on examinait les procès-verbaux des discussions qui ont eu lieu pendant les sessions précédentes, on aurait acquis la conviction que le pays n'a jamais manqué de signaler tout ce qui avait besoin d'être redressé.

En attendant, le système suivi dans l'île par quelques individus qui faisaient si peu de cas des remontrances du peuple et méconnaissaient si étrangement les intentions bienveillantes et les ordres du Gouvernement de notre auguste Souverain, a été un système stérile en résultats, rétrograde, oppressif, et qui a beaucoup contribué à augmenter le malaise du pays, malgré les bonnes dispositions de notre Gouverneur-Général actuel.

Dans son désir de réparer les désastres et les dégats occasionnés dans l'île par les derniers événements et de satisfaire aux vœux légitimes de cette population, Sa Majesté le Sultan avait doté la Crète d'un Statut Organique Spécial qui était alors considéré par le monde civilisé comme une garantie réelle d'un meilleur avenir pour ce pays. De son côté, dans le rapport qu'il présenta le 1 Mai, 1868, à Sa Majesté le Sultan, le Grand Vézir Aali Pacha, en analysant les dispositions de cette charte, déclarait à son Souverain et au monde entier que le système politique et administratif inauguré en Crète était celui du self-Gouvernement, dans l'acception la plus démocratique du mot. En entendant cette assurance de la bouche même du Chef du Cabinet Ottoman, on était en droit de croire que la fidèle exécution du Statut Organique imposée par l'esprit de justice qui, dans ces circonstances exceptionnelles, avait dicté ses différentes dispositions, aurait en effet justifié l'attente de l'éminent homme d'Etat. Un peu plus loin et dans le même rapport à Sa Majesté le Sultan, son Altesse ajoutait que si la population Crétoise se montrait digne des nouveaux droits qui lui étaient prodigués, Sa Majesté trouverait la récompense de tant de bienfaits dans le dévouement et la reconnaissance de ce peuple.

Les Crétois n'ont pas démenti cette conviction d'Aali Pacha par leur conduite pleine de dévouement pour Sa Majesté Impériale. Mais fort de leur droit octroyé par ce même Souverain, il leur est pourtant impossible de ne pas déclarer hautement qu'ils sont loin de jouir des avantages de l'égalité en justice et des priviléges qui leur furent sanctionnés par des Firmans successifs et confirmés par le Grand Vézir de Sa Majesté Impériale.

Une longue expérience a prouvé à cette population que le Statut Organique ne répond ni à l'esprit ni à la lettre des Ordonnances Impériales relative à l'égalité, qu'il ne satisfait point aux besoins des Chrétiens, et ne s'accorde pas avec les progrès réalisés par le pays.

Persuadé que si sa voix pouvait parvenir jusqu'au Trône Impérial, elle serait écoutée avec bienveillance et appellerait la haute sollicitude de Sa Majesté, le peuple Crétois n'a pas hésité à déclarer, par l'intermédiaire de ses représentants et en pleine

séance de l'Assemblée Générale, que cette institution a besoin d'être modifiée sur des bases plus larges qui répondent aux magnanimes intentions de notre Souverain, aux besoins du pays, et aux exigences de l'époque. Le peuple pense qu'il faut à la Crète une administration paternelle, impartiale, honnête, tolérante, juste, éclairée, et active ; qu'elle soit fondé sur les principes d'une égalité parfaite et sur les droits imprescriptibles de la majorité des deux races habitant l'île ; en un mot, une administration librement choisie par le peuple sur la base du self-gouvernement qui a été solennellement reconnu et proclamé. Sur la base sus-indiquée et l'autorisation qui nous on a été accordée nous nous sommes d'autant plus empressés de soumettre à votre Altesse, par l'entremise de son Excellence Réouf Pacha, les modifications que nous a semblé comporter le Statut Organique, qu'en agissant ainsi, nous sommes persuadés d'aller au devant des intentions paternelles de notre auguste Souverain et de faire participer tout le peuple sans exception aux inappréciables avantages d'une égalité réelle. En ne nous écartant point de ce principe salutaire, nous avons posé les bases d'un édifice solide et durable qui assurera, nous en sommes persuadés, le bien-être et la prospérité de notre patrie.

En terminant nous prions le très-haut pour la longévité et la gloire de notre auguste Souverain Abdul Aziz, et nous renouvellons à votre Altesse l'assurance du dévouement du peuple Chrétien de la Crète envers Sa Majesté Impériale.

Nous avons, &c,

(Suivent les signatures des 42 Députés Chrétiens.)

(Translation.)

Chapter I.—*Modifications of Chapter I of the "Statut Organique," submitted unanimously by all the Christian Deputies for the Deliberation of the Assembly-General.*

Article 1. The Assembly-General, founded on the basis of the proportion between the Mussulman and Christian populations of the islands, shall in future be composed of the Representatives of the different Cantons, and of the three towns of Canea, Rethymo and Candia, which Representatives shall be convoked at the chief town of the Vilayet, on the 1st May of each year.

Each canton or town shall elect four Deputies, of whom two shall be Mussulmans and the other two Christians, if the canton or the town is inhabited by exactly as many Mussulmans is Christians; but if the population of a canton or a town belonging to one of these religions is superior in numbers to that of the other, the former shall elect three Deputies, and the less numerous only one. The cantons inhabited exclusively by Mussulmans or Christians shall choose four Deputies, who may be Mussulmans or Christians.

Art. 2 is comprised in Art. 1.

Art. 3. In each canton or district the election of the Deputies is to be made by the Demogerondes of the villages convoked for this purpose on the 1st April of the same year by circular from the Governors and sub-Governors. The manner of election in the towns shall be the same as in the past, and in accordance with the local usage. As a general rule, all the general elections must be finished by the second Sunday in April.

Art. 4. The meeting of the Demogerondes, as well as of the town electors, shall not be considered as legally and duly constituted unless at least two-thirds of the Christian or Mussulman members be present, nor can it proceed in such a case to the election of Deputies. In such contrary event, the Governors or sub-Governors must adjourn the election to the following Sunday, and must give written notice to the electors that the elections will certainly take place, whatever may be the number of electors present.

Art. 5. The Assembly of the Demogerondes, both in the cantons and towns, shall always be presided over in the chief towns of the districts or of the cantons, by the Governors or the Kaïmakams who, under no pretext whatsoever, are ever to interfere in the elections. They will only look after the order of the discussions, the voting, and the prompt and regular execution of all the formalities of the election of each deputy.

Art. 6. The Christian Demogerondes shall elect Christian deputies, and the Mussulman those of their own religion. The election of each candidate is made separately, after a scrutiny, and the majority of votes must be taken into consideration.

Art. 7. The Deputies are elected for two years.

Art. 8. The Deputies who have served their time, may be elected for another

period. In the event of any Deputy resigning, dying, or else being prevented, owing to some obstacle, from fulfilling his duties, the Assembly of the Demogeronde must proceed to replace him.

Art. 9. All those inscribed on the lists mentioned in Article 8 of the Administrative Regulations, drawn up by the Governors and the sub-Governors, are eligible. It is not necessary that the Deputy inhabit the canton in which he has been elected. It is sufficient that he be domiciled in Crete.

Art. 12. The Deputies ought to meet at Canea on the 1st of May in each year. In the event of a Deputy not being present on that date, or of his not quickly explaining his absence by some reasonable hindrance, the Governor-General, with the concurrence of the majority of the Assembly, must invite the Governor and the sub-Governor of the district to proceed to the election of another Deputy if the absent representative continue absent till the 7th May.

Art. 13. Any candidate elected in two different districts must choose one or the other within five days from the day of his having received the return of the second election. If not, the Governor and Assembly General shall decree another election, in accordance with the preceding Article.

Art. 14. Every Deputy shall receive from the Government Treasury 1,000 piastres for each session, and 15 piastres daily from the 1st May till the day of the Assembly completing its work.

No official in the receipt of pay can be elected Deputy unless he give up his place in writing three months before the elections.

Chapter II.

Art. 15. On the day fixed for the opening of the General Assembly, *i.e.*, the 1st May, the Deputies shall be summoned to meet under the Presidency of the Governor-General, who shall announce the beginning of the session in writing, after having received the returns of all the Deputies.

If the validity of the election of any of the Deputies be contested, the Governor-General and the Deputies who are legally elected shall proceed to the verification of the contested returns. And, if the election be recognized as valid by the majority of the Assembly, the name of the Deputy shall be inscribed on the list containing the names of his colleagues. In the contrary case, the election shall be annulled, and they shall proceed to the filling up of the place of the Deputy irregularly elected, in accordance with Article 12.

Art. 16. The sittings of the Assembly General are public.

Art. 17 remains unchanged.

Art. 18. The general sittings of the Assembly shall be presided over by the Governor-General, or by his Councillor if he cannot do so. In the partial sittings the Christian or Mussulman Representatives shall choose their President and their officers.

Art. 19. The general or partial sittings cannot be considered as legally constituted unless one more than the half of the Deputies be present.

Powers of the President of the Assembly.

Art. 20. The President of the General Assembly shall direct the general sittings, keep the order that should reign there, give permission to each Deputy to speak in turn, and impose silence, if necessary, on the Deputies and the audience.

Art. 21. No Deputy can take part in the discussion without having had his name inscribed, and having been authorized to do so by the President.

Art. 22. When there is a difference of opinion on any question, the President shall have recourse to the ballot, and the question shall be determined by the majority of votes.

Art. 23. The discussions shall be carried on in Greek and in Turkish.

Art. 24. The transactions of the Assembly, which shall be drawn up in Greek and in Turkish, are to be read at the following sitting, and after the necessary corrections have been made in the margin, if required, the examination of fresh questions will be proceeded with.

Art. 25. Immediately after the verification of the powers and legal constitution of the Assembly, the Governor-General and the Deputies shall lay on the President's desk the various bills which are to be examined and discussed during the session.

Thus constituted, the General Assembly shall proceed to the formation of Mixed Commissions composed of seven members for the examination of each question; it

shall also fix, by a majority of votes, in case of urgency, the discussion on certain questions.

The election of the members of the Administrative Council, and of the Tribunal of Appeal, shall take place five days before the closing of the Assembly. These Councillors and Magistrates will be separately chosen by the Deputies of the same religion with them.

Art. 26. Each session of the General Assembly ought to last forty days, but if the majority of this Assembly asks for a prorogation for ten days, it may be granted by Imperial Decree.

Chapter III.—*Powers of the General Assembly.*

The General Assembly is competent to examine and discuss everything that may concern directly or indirectly the welfare of the island and the strict carrying out of its resolutions by the executive power. The Assembly will also occupy itself with all that concerns the means of communication, works of public utility, founding of land and commercial banks, in conformity with the tenour of the Imperial Firman of the 16th Zilhidjé, 1287 (28th February, 1868), as well as other objects, which aims at the development of commerce and industry, of agriculture and of public instruction. The Assembly has likewise the right of controlling the budget of the island for the past year, and for the year to come.

To Article 28 is only added after the words religious functionaries, "for erection and repair."

Art. 29. Unchanged.

Art. 30. The same.

Art. 31. The same.

Art. 32. The same.

Art. 33. An abstract of the debates and Minutes is to be published by the Secretary of the Assembly in the official journal of the Vilayet.

Art. 34. To this Article is added, "every infringement of regulations shall be decided on by the majority of the Assembly."

Art. . Article the last. As often as the majority of the Assembly shall think fit to proceed to the revision and to the modification of the present organic laws, it will be authorized to do so by Imperial Decree.

Chapter I.—*Central Christian Demogeronties.*

In each chief town of the Government (Mutessariflik), there shall be a Demogeronty for the Christian inhabitants. Each of these Demogeronties is composed of the Spiritual Head of the district, who is also its President, and of four members chosen for a period of three years, from the Christian inhabitants of the district assembled for this purpose on the 1st of April, and who are to elect four delegates with full powers. An equal number of procurators shall be also chosen by the towns of Canea, Rethymo, and Candia, in the same way as the members of the Assembly General are elected. All the electors who shall assemble at the chief town of the district by the 20th of April, are to proceed to the election of the four members who are to form the Demogeronty. In the districts where there are several episcopal sees, the President of the Demogeronty shall be nominated by his Eminence the Metropolitan.

The central Demogeronty are to be uniformly regulated by a Statute which will be drawn up by the five central Demogeronties of the island under the presidency of his Lordship the Metropolitan.

Chapter II.—*The Powers and Duties of the Central Demogeronties.*

The Christian Demogeronties which will be instituted in the chief towns of the districts will have, as regards all the Christians, the same duties as the Demogeronties of the villages. They are principally to decide in accordance with the Christian ecclesiastical laws in force every difference concerning the inheritance of property which may arise between Christians, without the Mekhemé or the Efcap having the power of intervention in any manner.

The Demogeronties shall take cognizance, as in past times, of everything which bears on the right of Christians to inherit, such as donations, &c.; they will draw up the deeds of gift and the wills of Christians, will decide all disputes that may arise

between these last, and will administer the pecuniary fortunes of Christian orphans and of those who are in a state of interdiction.

The judgments pronounced by the central Demogeronties, within the limits of their jurisdiction and power, if they have been pronounced as a final judgment without appeal, are to be executed by the Civil Tribunals of the island without any delay or intervention, and without the interference of the executive power in anything that regards questions of inheritance. The Demogeronties in question are to decide without appeal all actions concerning sums up to 5,000 piastres, in disputes where it is not possible accurately to determine the value.

The decisions which may be given concerning sums of more than 5,000 piastres may be appealed from. For judgments of this description there will be instituted a Tribunal of Appeal, under the presidency of his Eminence the Metropolitan of Crete.

The election and duties of the members of this Tribunal of Appeal, its seat and the duration of its labours, as well as the salaries of its members and of its secretary, will be settled in another statute to be drawn up by the members of the five Demogeronties and by a special delegate from each canton, who will be chosen by the inhabitants. This Commission of delegates will be placed under the presidency of the Metropolitan.

Independently of appeal, the decisions of the Central Demogeronties may be revoked by the National Mixed Council sitting at the Patriarcate of Constantinople, but until the Tribunal of Appeal above-mentioned is instituted, appeal may be made from the decisions of the Demogeronties before the Patriarcate, as in time past.

The five central Demogeronties shall be guided by the same civil procedure as that in force in the Tribunals of First Instance as far as concerns delay, revision, suspension, and the other legal forms.

Final Articles.

As the Mehkemés of this island have only the right to take cognizance of certain actions between Mussulmans, they shall have no power, in any case, to encroach on the above-indicated duties and jurisdiction of the Central Christian Demogeronties.

The correspondence between the Demogeronties and the cantons will always be carried on in Greek; besides which every official act ought to be communicated to them in a properly legalized Greek translation.

The Christian Demogeronties have the right to have at their service two gendarmes paid by the Government.

Treasuries for Christian Orphans.

The fortune of the orphans is to be administered in each district by special treasuries placed under the superintendence, and acting under the responsibility of, the Demogeronties. These treasuries will be guided by the statute drawn up by the five central Demogeronties, and submitted to the sanction of the Sublime Porte.

The bonds for loans on pawn of the treasuries in question will be written in Greek before the Demogeronty and on stamped paper, as has been the practice for thirteen years, without any intervention on the part of the Mehkemés. These bonds need only to be legalized by the Administrative Councils of the districts, who will set their seals to them after having caused the debtors and their guarantees to appear.

Thus legalized, these documents will have the same value as the hadjets emanating from the Mehkemé's Office. This procedure shall be adhered to until the institution in the island of the notaries' offices mentioned in the last Imperial Firmans.

A tax of one per thousand will be paid by the borrowers to the service of the Demogeronties, which will serve to cover a portion of the expenses of the Demogeronties and of the Tribunal of Appeal which is to be instituted.

The deeds of lease of the real property of orphans and monasteries shall be drawn up in the Greek language on stamped paper; they ought simply to be legalized free of expense by the municipalities of the districts. The tax of 5 piastres, which is taken for legislation, and that of 1 per cent. shall be deducted by the Christian Demogeronties to cover a portion of the expenses of these Demogeronties and of the Tribunal of Appeal.

Last Article.

As to what concerns simply the duties of guardians and the administration of the fortunes of minors, the Demogeronties are placed under the immediate superintendence

of the Administrative Council of the General Government and under that prescribed by the special regulation concerning the Demogeronties.

Chapter I.—*Regulation on the Mixed Administrative Councils.*

Art. 1. Unchanged.
Art. 2. The same.
Art. 3. The same.
Art. 4. The same.

Art. 5. The conduct of administrative affairs for the whole island generally is entrusted to a Governor-General nominated by Imperial Decree, and chosen from the Mussulman or Orthodox Christian functionaries of the Sublime Porte. The administration of the districts or mutessarifliks is entrusted to Governors similarly nominated by Imperial Decree, of whom the half are chosen from the Mussulman and the other half from the Christian functionaries of the Empire.

Each canton is administered by a Kaïmakam nominated by the Imperial Government, and chosen from its Mussulman or Christian employés. These sub-Governors ought always to be nominated on the basis of the number of inhabitants of th ...o races; they can be removed, if necessary, on the proposition of the Governor, if adopted by the Administrative Council.

In cantons where the population is entirely Christian or Mussulman, the Kaïmakams shall be either Christians or Mussulmans.

Art. 6. Unchanged.

Art. 7. The Governor-General is assisted by an Administrative Council, and by a Councillor nominated by Imperial Decree, who takes the Governor-General's place in case the latter is prevented. If the Governor-General is Mussulman, his Councillor is to be Christian, and if the Governor-General is an Orthodox Christian, his Councillor is to be Mussulman. And where as the Government of Canea has neither Government nor Administrative Council, these functions will be performed by the Governor-General and Administrative Council of the Vilayet.

Art 8. Each Governor of a district has at his side an Administrative Council and an Assistant, who takes the Governor's place in case of need, and is nominated by Imperial Decree. The Assistant of a Mussulman Governor ought to be Christian, and the Assistant of a Christian Governor ought to be Mussulman; and since the canton where the Governor resides will have no Kaïmakam, nor any Special Administrative Council, the Governor ought to perform the functions of the Kaïmakam, and his Council will take the place of the Cantonal Council.

Art 9. Unchanged.
Art. 10. The same.

Chapter II.—*Elections and Powers of the Administrative Council of the General Government.*

Art. 11. The executive power belongs exclusively to the Governor-General, who ought to exercise it with the assistance of the Governors, sub-Governors, and Demogeronds, in conformity with the laws of the Empire, or Organic Statute, and the instructions which they may receive.

Art. 12. The Administrative Council, placed under the Presidency of the Governor-General, or of his adviser, is composed of six members chosen by the General Assembly, four of whom are to be Christians and the two others Mussulmans. Half of these members, whether Mussulmans or Christians, is to be renewed every year.

Art. 13. The Administrative Council cannot, under any pretext, exercise any of the functions of the executive or judicial power. Its province is to be purely administrative. In accordance with the principle that is to regulate the relations and duties of the Administrative Council and the Governor-General to each other, action, execution, the initiative, direct correspondence with the subordinate authorities, as well as the despatching of orders, exclusively belong to the Governor-General, while, on the other hand, the discussion, deliberation, and decision of judicial subjects, form part of the province of the Administrative Council above-mentioned. In consequence, where it is not a question of the pure and simple execution of some disposition of a general law of the State, or of some special regulation concerning Crete, but of measures which demand discussion, examination and decision, such measures should be submited to the Administrative Council.

Art. 14. In accordance with the preceding, the Council will have the right of

discussing, before they are put in execution, all those administrative measures which may or may not have a fixed duration.

No administrative measure, such as the organization of municipalities, of charitable institutions, the construction or suppression of markets or cemeteries, the purchase, sale, exchange, or provisional cession of public property or lands, the care of causing the expatriated inhabitants to return, the compensations promised for this purpose, &c.; none of these measures are to be executed in the island directly or indirectly by the Governors or vice-Governors, before being first discussed and decided on by the majority of the Adminstrative Council. This Council can modify, if it thinks necessary, the measures proposed by the Government on this subject. The orders thus discussed or modified will be put into execution without delay by the Governor-General, unless their sanction by the Imperial Government is indispensable. In the case where the Governor-General may think it his duty to command the execution of any of the above-mentioned orders, without accepting the modifications which the Administrative Council may have introduced, or in spite of the rejection of the order by this Council, the Governor-General can only proceed to the execution of this order by direct authorization of an Imperial Decree.

The Governor-General may form, in the midst of the Administrative Council, Commissions charged with examining the above-named matters, and with making a report on them, which Report is to be submitted to this Council.

Art. 15. Unchanged.

Art. 16. The same.

Art. 17. The Administrative Council of the Vilayet will apportion to the Government all the direct taxes, the levy of which has been ordered by any law or legal decision of the General Assembly of the Island; it will also regulate the system of levying the direct taxes fixed by this same Assembly, and approved in conformity with Article 13 of the Imperial Firman, which accompanies the Organic Statute.

Art, 18. Unchanged.

Art. 19. The same.

Art. 20. The Council in question is to present and justify before the General Assembly the Budget of the past year and the next one, in general for all the expenditure, receipts, and extraordinary expenses of the Island; the Budget will be drawn up in Greek and in Turkish.

Art. 21. Unchanged.

Art. 22. The same.

Art. 23. The Administrative Council is specially charged with the collection of all the proper materials for the composition of exact and regular statistical returns for the whole island, which will be published each year by the journal of the vilayet.

Art. 24. The above-mentioned Council has the right of making observations to the Governor-General whenever the latter may depart from his duties as above mentioned towards the Council.

Art. 25. Unchanged.

Art. 26. The same.

Art. 27. The same.

Art. 28. No sitting and no decision of the Council can be considered legal if the half, plus one at least, of the members does not take part in the deliberations.

Art. 29. The members of the Administrative Council are elected by the General Assembly. The Mussulmans are to choose the Mussulman Councillors, and the Christians their own, from among the most capable inhabitants of the island. The length of their service is two years.

Art. 30. Unchanged.

Art. 31. Half the Members of the Council shall be changed every year.

Art. 32. Unchanged.

Art. 33. The members of the Administrative Council of the vilayet shall each receive 1,250 piastres per month.

Last Article.

The Kaïmakams, their assistants, the Presidents of Tribunals, the First Secretaries of the General Government, and of the subordinate Governments, the Public Prosecutors and Procureurs, as well as the Examining Magistrates, are to be nominated by the competent authorities, by Imperial Ordinance, and upon proposal by the Governor-General and the majority of the Council of Administration. The subordinate officials will be nominated by the Governor-General and the Council of

Administration, upon proposal by the Governor and Council of Administration of their districts. The Kaïmakams and their "mouavins" shall be selected from among the most honourable and most able inhabitants of the island, and from those who are distinguished by the integrity of their character; they must more especially be well educated.

Chapter III.—*Mode of Election and Duties of the Administrative Councils of the Governments and sub-Governments.*

Art. 34. In the districts where there is a mixed population the Administrative Councils are formed by the Governor or President, and by six members elected by the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants of the whole district, in the following manner:—

In districts where the population is divided in equal proportion, there will be three members of each religion; and where the inhabitants of one of the two religions are superior in number, the latter shall elect four members, and the minority only two. In districts inhabited by Christians or Mussulmans exclusively, all six members must be Christians or Mussulmans.

Art. 35. The Councils of cantons presided over by the Kaïmakam are composed of him and of six Mussulman or Christian members inhabiting the canton. Their election shall be managed on the basis fixed for the election of members of the Government Councils.

Art. 36. The Governors and sub-Governors, although they have a fixed jurisdiction, and represent the Governor-General, yet, whenever matters beyond their powers are in question, they are bound to submit these measures to be inquired into and decided on by the Administrative Council of the Government or sub-Government, whose decisions shall be made by a majority of votes.

Art. 37. The Government and sub-Government Councils must on no account meddle with judicial matters.

Art. 38. If, on the contrary, the measure which the Governor or sub-Governor wishes to apply is one of those which require a preliminary inquiry and debate, the Governors shall decide on the measure in concert with the majority of the Council, even were the measure adopted by the Governor-General and his Council in conformity with Articles 13-21. And as the Kaïmakams depend on the Governors, as far as hierarchical matters are concerned, so the Cantonal Councils depend on the District Councils. Consequently, whenever matters, not belonging exclusively to the Executive Power, are in question, the Governors and the Kaïmakams are bound to submit them to the deliberation of their Council.

Art. 39. No modification.

Art. 40. The same.

Art. 41. The same.

Chapter IV.—*Manner of Election and Powers of the Government and sub-Government Councils.*

Art. 42. Members of Government Councils and of the Mixed Tribunals of the district are elected by the inhabitants of the cantons and towns acting through four delegates of each canton or town, who shall meet for this purpose in the principal place of the canton or in the town on the first Sunday in April. All these delegates shall meet on the third Sunday in April in the principal town of the district and proceed to the election of the members of the Administrative Council and of the Mixed Tribunal by a majority of votes, after the designation by each town or canton of certain candidates among those whose names are inscribed in the town or cantonal list. The election must be so managed as to satisfy each canton and each town. The Christian electors choose Christians and Mussulmans Mussulmans. The election of the members of the Cantonal Councils, Christians as well as Mussulmans, must be managed by the Demogeronties convened in the chief town of the canton on the second Sunday in April.

Art. 43. Members of Governmental and sub-Governmental Councils shall exercise their functions for two years; half the numbers to be replaced in rotation each year. Members of district Councils receive a monthly salary of 750 piastres; members of Cantonal Councils, 200 piastres.

Composition, Powers, and Duties of Village Demogeronties.

N.B.—The 66th Article of the XIth Chapter of the Rules for Mixed Tribunals is transferred to the IVth Chapter of the Rules for the Mixed Administrative Councils.

Art. 44. Each village must be managed directly by a Demogeronty; the bounds of each village shall be fixed by the Communal Law to be decided on.

N.B.—The 68th Article of the XIIth Chapter of the Rules for Mixed Tribunals is transferred to the IVth Chapter of the Rules for the Mixed Administrative Councils.

Art. 45. As to judicial matters, village Demogeronties have a power of arbitration. The decisions, however, shall only take effect so far as the litigants shall have consented in writing to submit to the arbitration of the Demogeronty. In any case, decisions emanating from these village Demogeronties shall only be valid after having been legalised by the Mixed Tribunal of the canton wherein the village is situated.

Art. 46. A special law shall fix the communal limits.

The General Assembly shall submit to the Imperial Government a project of Communal Law, but until the promulgation of the law, the affairs of the villages shall be administered by the Demogeronties as in times past.

Supplement.

As the great majority of the Mussulmans and Christians are not acquainted with Turkish, but usually speak Greek, the latter language shall be introduced, on an equal footing with Turkish, in all public offices, courts of justice, and councils. Consequently, the number of Christian clerks in those offices shall be equal to the number of Mussulmans, so that all documents, without exception, such as sentences, reports of law cases, judicial inquiries, and all other reports in writing shall be also drawn up in Greek.

For the same reason all administrative or judicial orders are to be drawn up in Greek.

In each district the superintendence of this work is to be entrusted to a Christian Secretary-General who is master of this language. In consideration of the ever-increasing need of giving additional development to public instruction, the Imperial Government, besides the monthly subvention of 3,000 piastres allotted to the schools at Canea, Retimo, Candia, Sphakia, and Lasuthi, shall also lend all its moral support to the extension of education by encouraging and stimulating the zeal of the inhabitants by the intervention of the Governments, and above all of the Kaïmakams. Hence, instruction must be obligatory for children above five years of age, and for those who have not passed their fourteenth year, under penalty of a fine imposed by the Cantonal Council on the relations or guardians of these children.

All municipal lawsuits relating to fallow lands, meadows, or rights of the neighbouring villagers shall be judged by the Mixed Council, and the Mekhemé shall never have the right to interfere.

In conformity with the last Imperial Firman relating to reforms, a sufficient number of notaryships shall be established in the island, whose duty it shall be to draw up all documents relating to landed estates, transfers, mortgages, and in general all other notarial documents, without the Mekhemé or the Ercaf having the slightest right to intervene.

The police shall be composed, in proportion to the number of the population, of native Christian and Mussulman private soldiers and officers, up to the rank of colonel ("miralai").

No one shall be punished with exile, or undergo imprisonment previous to trial without a magisterial sentence.

Blasphemy, or offences against the religion of one of the native races of the island, matters hitherto punished with banishment, shall henceforth be tried by regular Law Courts, and punished as directed by the Penal Code; consequently, the penalty of banishment shall be abolished.

All foundlings, to whatever religion they belong, shall be maintained, until they are weaned, at the expense of the Government.

The Public Treasury must also provide for the expense of the interment of the poor who die in the island, as is the custom in the case of Mussulmans.

The Government is bound to neglect nothing for the development of trade, manufactures, and agriculture. Consequently, the Government shall carry on energetically the construction of the central roads, of the bridges, and the repairs of the chief

harbours in the island. For this purpose a sufficient sum shall be assigned every year from the island revenues for public works, in conformity with the Imperial Firman accompanying the Organic Statute.

Trade shall also be the object of the Government's care, and care shall be taken to give an efficient organization to the commercial Tribunals in the towns, so as to secure a prompt despatch, and fair arrangement in commercial matters.

All possible exertion will also be made to develop agriculture, by instituting a rural police, so as to prevent the loss and waste caused to farmers.

The Government shall grant sufficient privileges to those who set up manufactories, or trading and land banks in the island.

Decisions of the ecclesiastical authorities of the country within the limits of their jurisdiction, and relating to affairs purely spiritual or ecclesiastical, shall be carried out by the civil authorities without any kind of intervention, in conformity with the orders of the Hatti-Humayoum and Herats with which the Metropolitan and the Archbishops are provided. Moreover, all possible assistance shall be given to the ecclesiastical authorities within the limits of the relations which ought to exist between the secular and ecclesiastical authorities, and are sanctioned by the laws.

Seeing that the God worshipped in the mosques is the same Almighty Deity who is worshipped in the churches of the Christians, the latter may with all freedom erect, repair, and restore their churches, particularly the ruined chapels scattered through the country; and, to prevent any inconvenience, the size of these churches, and the extent of their precincts, shall be fixed by the Administrative Council of the vilayet.

Full and entire liberty of conscience is granted to all the inhabitants of the island, in accordance with the Hatti-Humayoum; consequently the forced abandonment of their native country formerly inflicted on renegades is henceforth abolished.

Minors shall come of age at twenty-one, and until they shall have attained this age, no young man or young woman shall be allowed to make a declaration that they have apostatized, and in any case they must have spent several days with the spiritual head of the religion to which the renegade belonged before he abjured it.

Seeing that the privilege of self-government granted to the inhabitants of the island certainly gives them the privilege of having a national administration, care shall be taken to appoint to important administrative posts in the Government, such as Secretaries-General and Collectors, native Christians and Mussulmans whose ability, honesty, and learning leave nothing to be desired.

All Cretan refugees now in Greece or elsewhere, and who have been banished without previous trial by the Courts of the country, may all without exception return to their homes. Their estates shall be restored to them, even if any of them shall have changed their religion.

It shall be permissible to set up printing presses and "syllogues," and also to to publish newspapers, edited by private individuals, in conformity with the laws in force in the Empire.

Every Ordinance or Order issued by the Vizier contravening the existing organic laws cannot henceforth be put into execution in the Island of Crete.

To secure the faithful and vigorous execution of the existing laws, a general census of all the inhabitants of the Island shall be taken, in accordance with the Communal Law to be decided on by the General Assembly.

Constitution of the Mixed Tribunal.

Chapter I.—*Composition of the Mixed Tribunals in the Cantons.*

Article 1. Each Canton shall have a Mixed Tribunal.

Art. 2. These Tribunals shall be composed of a President and four Judges.

Art. 3. The Presidents of the said Tribunals shall be appointed, dismissed, and paid directly by the Imperial Government by an Imperial Ordinance, in conformity with the last Article of Chapter II of the present Organic Laws on the election and the jurisdiction of the Administrative Council of the Vilayet.

Art. 4. The numbers of these Tribunals shall be chosen from those whose names appear on the lists made up by the Kaïmakams and the Governors.

Art. 5. The Kaïmakam or the Governor shall, for this purpose, make up a list of the names of all the inhabitants in his canton, who, having reached the age of twenty-five, do not come within any of the under-mentioned cases which entail disability.

Art. 6. The following shall be under disability and be incapable of being placed on the list in question :—

1. Those who can neither read nor write.
2. Domestic servants.
3. Those who have been partly or wholly deprived of their civil rights by a judicial decision in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Law.
4. Those who, having failed, have not been rehabilitated by a judicial decision.
5. Those who are not possessed of all their intellectual faculties or are in tutelage.
6. Those who stand accused of crime or misdemeanor, or who have fled from justice.
7. Those who have been condemned for some crime, for theft, obtaining money by illicit means, abuse of trust, corruption of morals, or any other misdemeanor, and who have suffered more than one year's imprisonment.

Art. 7. Neither shall the civil or military paid functionaries of the Government be put on the above-mentioned list.

Art. 8. This list is to be published and posted up on the 1st of May of each year; it is to be written in Greek and in Turkish (the rest of this Article remains unchanged).

Art. 9. The names of those who have died during the year shall be taken out of the list of the following year (the rest unchanged).

Art. 10. On the 1st of April the sub-Governor shall call upon the Christian and Mussulman inhabitants of each canton to elect the four members of the Mixed Tribunal. The election shall always be on the basis of the majority of the Christian and Mussulman population of each canton, and from among those whose names appear on the catalogues. But in cantons inhabited exclusively by Christians or exclusively by Mussulmans, the above-mentioned judges shall be all Christians or all Mussulmans. The record of the election shall be sealed by the Kaïmakam, and a verified copy is to be sent to the President of the Mixed Tribunal for deposition in the archives thereof.

Art. 11. The members of the Cantonal Tribunals shall receive a salary of 450 piastres a month. Their term of office shall be one year.

At the beginning of every year the President of the Mixed Tribunal of the Canton will be careful to publish a table showing the days and hours of the Tribunal's sessions for the whole year. This table shall be verified by the Tribunal reviewing the decisions of the Cantonal Tribunal.

Art. 12. Unchanged.

Chapter II.—*Composition of the Mixed Tribunals of the Governments.*

Art. 13. Unchanged.

Art. 14. The same.

Art. 15. The Presidents of these Tribunals shall be appointed, dismissed, and paid directly by the Imperial Government according to the last Article of Chapter II, relating to the election and the jurisdiction of the Council of the Vilayet.

Art. 16. The members of the above-named Tribunals shall be elected as prescribed by Article 14 of Chapter III of the present Organic Statute on the election and the jurisdiction of the Administrative Councils of the Governments and the sub-Governments.

Art. 17. Suppressed.

Art. 18. The four judges thus chosen by the Christrian and Mussulman electors shall hold their office for two years, after which time fresh elections shall take place. Should one of them die or resign, another shall be elected after the above-mentioned manner.

Art. 19. Unchanged.

Art. 20. The members of the Mixed Tribunals of the Governments ("Moutessarrifliks") shall each receive a salary of 9,600 piastres a-year.

At the beginning of each year the President of the Mixed Tribunal shall frame a table of the hours and days of the Tribunal's session for the whole year. This table shall be certified by the President of the Court of Appeal of the Vilayet.

Art. 21. Unchanged.

Chapter III.—*Constitution of the Mixed Tribunal of Appeal sitting in the Chief Town of the Vilayet.*

Art. 22. In the chief town of the vilayet there shall be a Mixed Tribunal of Appeal.

Art. 23. Unchanged.

Art. 24. The President of this Superior Tribunal shall be chosen, dismissed, and paid directly by the Imperial Government in the manner shown in the last Article of Chapter II, relating to the election and to the jurisdiction of the Administrative Council of the Vilayet.

Art. 25. The members of this Tribunal of Appeal shall be elected by the General Assembly; there shall be two of each religion. The Christian deputies shall elect the two Christian Judges separately, and the Mussulman deputies the two Mussulman Judges separately, in accordance with Article 25 of Chapter II relating to the annual session of the General Assembly. The term of office of these Magistrates shall be three years.

Art. 26. Suppressed.

Art. 27. Unchanged.

Art. 28. Each of the above-mentioned Judges shall receive 1,500 piastres a month.

Art. 29. Unchanged.

Art. 30. The same.

Chapter IV.—*Ordinary and Special Jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals of different grades sitting in the Chief Town of the Vilayet.*

Art. 31. Not modified.

Ordinary Jurisdiction.

Art. 32. Unchanged.

Art. 33. The same.

Art. 34. The same.

Art. 35. The same.

Chapter V.—*Jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals of the Governments.*

Art. 36. The Mixed Tribunals of the Governments judge in the first instance:—

(1.) Cases within their competence according to Article 32 of Chapter IV of the Organic Statute relating to the ordinary jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals of the Governments.

(2.) Unchanged.

Art. 37. Unchanged.

Art. 38. The same.

Chapter VI.—*Special Jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals of various grades.*

Art. 39. Unchanged: add however:—"Questions of inheritance, before the actual division, shall be brought by the creditors, before the Central Demogeronty of the place of domicile of the deceased, even though the said deceased be a bankrupt." The rest of the Article remains unchanged.

Art. 40. Not modified.

Chapter VII.—*Regulations applicable to Tribunals of all grades.*

Art. 41. Not modified.

Art. 42. The same.

Art. 43. The same.

Art. 44. The same.

Art. 45. All judgments given by the Mixed Tribunals shall be executed by experienced officers of the Tribunals professing either religion, after that the Presidents shall have endorsed the decisions with the following Decree:—"The officers of the Tribunal are enjoined to execute these presents and the civil and military authorities are to give their assistance in case of need." And the Governor-General, the Governors,

and the sub-Governors shall order the execution of the judgments by the behest:—"Let it be executed." Any legal objection to a judgment shall be inquired into by the Tribunal which gave the decision.

Art. 46. The Administrative Council of the Vilayet shall fix the fees to be levied for all cases tried by the Mixed Tribunals.

Art. 47. Not modified.

Art. 48. The same.

Art. 49. The same.

Art. 50. The same.

Last Articles.

The election and the appointment of the Presidents of the Mixed Tribunals in the Cantons shall be on the basis of the whole population of the island. The Kaïmakams as well as the Presidents may be removed at the suggestion of the Administrative Council under approval of the majority of the Administrative Council of the Vilayet, according to the last Articles of Chapter II relating to the election and the jurisdiction of the Administrative Council of the Vilayet. In Cantons of exclusively Christian or Mussulman population, the Presidents shall be all Christians or Mussulmans respectively. But in the chief towns of the Governments, that is to say where the Governors are Mussulmans, all the Presidents of the Tribunals shall be Christians, and where the Governors are Christians the Presidents shall be Mussulmans.

No Naïb shall be appointed President of any of the Principal Tribunals of the island.

There shall be Public Prosecutors, Assistant Public Prosecutors, Clerk of Arraigns for each Tribunal in the island. The Tribunal of Appeal shall have a Public Prosecutor and an Assistant Public Prosecutor. Attached to each Mixed Tribunal there shall be a Public Prosecutor and a Clerk of Arraigns according to the last Article of Chapter II, relating to the election and the jurisdiction of the Administrative Council of the Vilayet.

Chapter VIII.—*Tribunals of Commerce.*

Art. 51. Unchanged.

Art. 52. The same.

Art. 53. The same.

Art. 54. The Presidents of the Tribunals above-mentioned shall be appointed, dismissed, and paid directly by the Imperial Government according to the regulations in the last Article of Chapter II, relating to the jurisdiction of the Administrative Council of the Vilayet.

Art. 55. Unchanged.

Art. 56. The same.

Art. 57. The same.

Art. 58. The same.

Art. 59. The term of office of the members of the Tribunals of Commerce shall be two years; but they may be re-elected for another period. In cases of death or resignation, the Christian and Mussulman electors shall fill up the place of the Judge who may have died or resigned.

Art. 60. Unchanged.

Art. 61. The same.

Art. 62. The Judges of the Tribunals of Commerce shall receive 4,800 piastres each yearly.

Chapter IX.—*Competence of the Tribunals of Commerce.*

Art. 63. Unchanged.

Art. 64. Judgments given by the Tribunals of Commerce shall be executed in conformity with Article 45 of Chapter VIII.

Art. 65. Unchanged.

Last Article.

The clause respecting agriculturists is included in the Ordinances of Article 39 of Chapter X, relating to the special jurisdiction of the Mixed Tribunals of different grades.

Additional Article.

The Members of the Tribunal of Appeal, the Public Prosecutors, the Assistant Public Prosecutors, and the Clerks of Arraigns shall be educated, capable, experienced, and honourable men; they shall also be men able to speak Greek. The Presidents shall be men of education, experience, and integrity.

Actions against Judges and generally against Judicial Functionary.

If a Judge or a judicial functionary shall, in the performance of his duties, have caused any injury to the interests of one of the parties to a suit, either by negligence or deliberate design or by denial of justice, &c., and if the said accused is a President of a Mixed Tribunal or a Judge, he shall be cited before the Tribunal of Appeal at Canea, and if he is a President or Member of the Tribunal of Appeal he shall be triable before the Court of Cassation at Constantinople, where he shall be condemned to indemnify the injured party. The complainant may reserve to himself the right of ultimately prosecuting the delinquent before the ordinary Tribunals, according to Article 103 and the following Articles of Chapter VI of the Penal Code. A similar course shall be pursued with regard to any civil functionary.

Address of the Christian Members of the General Assembly of Crete to his Highness the Grand Vizier.

Your Highness, *Canea, May* $\frac{16}{28}$, 1876.

It is indisputable that neither agriculture nor manufactures, nor public education, nor any work of public utility can be developed or make any progress in a country where there are no institutions regulating the relations between governors and governed, and answering to what is needed by these works of general utility; in a country which lacks an Administration where in each branch of the service there are to be found persons of honesty, intelligence, education, and special qualifications; in a word, an Administration which understands its mission, faithfully fulfils its duty, and impartially and frankly puts into execution the established laws, and any orders or instructions given to it.

Without these essential conditions, no improvement, no progress, can ever be possible. All action is paralysed by the irregular conduct voluntarily or involuntarily adopted by the governing party; that most useful and indispensable confidence of the governed towards the ruling class, is rendered impossible, everywhere confusion and disorder prevail, and this sad state of affairs cannot be long in producing as its natural and inevitable cause, a general uneasiness and remissness bringing on the incalculable evils and calamities of re-action.

It is not then surprising that the population of this island has seen with regret the care always taken by the Governor-Generals not to allow the representatives of the people to overstep the narrow limits laid down for them, which, according to these officials, would be summed up in the words trade, agriculture, manufactures, and public education; as if the success of these works could depend on the mere recital of these words, or on the mere expression of a wish; as if all these promises could be realized without goodwill, without the necessary machinery; and as if the progress or prosperity of a country could be obtained without a good administration and good institutions.

But does not experience assure us that this system of restriction, imposed on the delegates of the people during preceding sessions of the Assembly, has never contributed to improve the bad condition of the country, and that every means has been in vain exhausted to find a remedy for the symptoms of the disease, without men ever having thought of attacking it at the root, or having sought the primary cause; how many times have the Deputies fixed the attention of the authorities on the defective and precarious state of several works of public utility. How many times have they pointed out the means to remedy the evil, and called for care and upright dealing on the part of the Government. How many times have they demanded that the laws in force should be applied with accuracy and good faith.

Were any one to take the trouble to cast a glance at the demands put forward by the representatives of the different cantons, were anyone to examine the reports of the debates of preceding sessions, such a one would be convinced that the country has never failed to point out all that needed redress.

Meantime the system followed in the island by certain individuals who paid so little attention to the remonstrances of the people, and so strangely misjudged the benevolent intentions and the orders of the Government of our august Sovereign, has been a system barren in results, retrograde, and oppressive, and one which has greatly contributed to increase the misery of the country, in spite of the kind disposition of our present Governor-General.

In his desire of repairing the disasters and the mischief caused in the island by recent events, and of satisfying the lawful aspirations of the population, His Majesty the Sultan had granted to Crete a special organic Statute, at that time considered by the civilized world as a real guarantee of a better future for this country. On his side, the Grand Vizier Aali Pasha, in the Report presented by him to His Majesty the Sultan, while analysing the provisions of this charter, declared to his Sovereign and to the whole world that the political and administrative system inaugurated in Crete was that of self-government, in the most democratic acceptation of the word. When we had this assurance from the very lips of the head of the Ottoman Cabinet, we had a right to believe that the faithful execution of the Organic Statute, forced on the Government by the spirit of justice which, under these exceptional circumstances, had dictated its different provisions, would have justified the expectations of the eminent statesman. A little further on, in the same report to His Majesty the Sultan, his Highness added, that if the population of Crete showed itself worthy of the new rights lavished on it, His Majesty would find the reward for so many benefits in the devotion and gratitude of the people.

The Cretans have, by their most devoted conduct to His Imperial Majesty, not falsified this conviction of Aali Pasha. But, relying on the right granted to them by the same Sovereign, it is nevertheless impossible for them not to declare openly that they are far from enjoying the advantages of equality in justice and the privileges secured to them by successive Firmans and confirmed by the Grand Vizier of His Imperial Majesty.

Long experience has proved to this population that the Organic Statute does not answer either to the spirit or the letter of the Imperial Ordinances relating to equality of all in the eyes of the law; that it does not satisfy the wants of the Christians, and does not coincide with the progress made by the country.

The people of Crete, convinced that if they could make their voice heard at the Imperial throne, it would be listened to with kindness and call for the utmost care on the part of His Majesty, have not hesitated to declare, by the agency of its representatives, and in full sitting of the General Assembly, that this arrangement needs modification on a more extended basis, answering to the magnanimous intentions of our Sovereign, to the needs of the country, and to the exigencies of the age. The people think that Crete requires a paternal, impartial, honest, tolerant, just, enlightened, and active administration, which should be founded on principles of complete equality, and on the undeniable rights of the majority of the two races that inhabit the island; in a word, an administration freely chosen by the people on the basis of the self-government solemnly recognized and proclaimed. We have been all the more anxious to submit to your Highness, through his Excellency Reouf Pasha, on the above-stated foundation, and in pursuance of the authorization so to do which has been granted to us, the modifications which the Organic Statute appeared to us to permit of, because, in acting thus, we have felt that we have been anticipating the paternal intention of our august Sovereign, and have been devising means for enabling the whole people, without exception, to participate in the inestimable benefits of a real equality. By holding fast to this wholesome principle, we have laid the foundations of a strong and lasting building, which we feel confident will assure the well-being and prosperity of our country.

We conclude by imploring the Most High to grant long years and glory to our august Sovereign Abdul Aziz, and we renew to your Highness the assurance of the loyalty of the Christian people of Crete to His Imperial Majesty.

We have, &c.

(Here follow the signatures of the 42 Christian Deputies.)

No. 474.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 20.)

Extract.) *Ragusa, June 11, 1876.*

I AM informed that the local authorities here, shocked at the high rate of mortality which has recently shown itself among the refugees, have caused an investigation to be made into their condition. The report of the medical men charged with the duty was received the night before last; and it states, in effect, that the typhus fever which has for some time been prevalent among the refugees has been accelerated in its action by insufficient nourishment.

No diminution in the amount of subsistence granted to the refugees by the Austrian Government has been officially authorized; but it is alleged that the allowances are made very irregularly.

The Relief Committee here declare that they cannot comply with any further demands for aid; and M. de Wesselitzky informed me yesterday that, as the means at his disposal here were totally inadequate to meet the increasing necessities of the situation, he meant to bring the question to a head by withdrawing altogether to Cettigné. He had, he said, received a telegram announcing the arrival of 2,000 famishing Bosnians, and the imminent approach of 3,000 more, in the district of Kuin; and he was utterly unable to authorize the purchase of the bread of which they stood in want.

No. 475.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 20, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 16th instant, in which you record a conversation which you have had with the Duc Decazes in regard to the views of Her Majesty's Government in the present state of the negotiations respecting the Eastern question; and I approve of the language held by your Excellency on this subject, as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 476.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 21, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador called on me this day and communicated to me the substance of a despatch from Prince Gortchakow, commenting upon the views which I had expressed to Count Schouvaloff in conversation on the present state of affairs in European Turkey. An account of this conversation will be found in my despatch to your Excellency of the 14th instant.

Prince Gortchakow says that the Emperor of Russia has been gratified to find that Her Majesty's Government share his feeling as to the duties imposed upon the Powers by the present crisis in the East. His Majesty is persuaded that it is both possible and desirable that the several Governments should come to an agreement as to the means of arriving at a satisfactory solution of the present complications. He had been glad, therefore, to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government, and had desired Prince Gortchakow to reply with perfect frankness.

In the opinion of the Russian Government, a conflict, which bore the character of a struggle between Christianity and Mahomedanism, was by its nature stamped with a character of inveteracy, and assumed exceptional proportions, which appealed to the honour and conscience of the Christian Powers, and rendered it difficult to abstain completely from interference.

For this reason the Russian Government must dissent from the opinion expressed by me that it would be useless to look for a practical solution till hostilities had resulted in some definite issue. They had always held, on the contrary, that the Powers should use their best efforts to avert a fanatical war of extermination, both on grounds of general humanity and for their own interests. The consequences of such

a war would be incalculable. It would ruin both victors and vanquished, and would smother in its infancy the future prosperity of those countries, from the civilization of which Europe had every advantage to gain.

Russia, Prince Gortchakow says, had endeavoured to bring about a general agreement of the Great Powers for this purpose. In spite of the growing tendency of every Government to favour the general principle of non-intervention, the Russian Government believed that Europe would still for a long time be called upon to exercise her influence in the East to moderate conflicting passions, and to guide the energies of the various populations in the path of peaceful and orderly progress.

This task was susceptible of accomplishment if the Governments interested would unite loyally with this common object.

With regard to the remedies to be applied to the present state of affairs, Prince Gortchakow agrees with me that those are the best which offer the most practical solution. For this reason the Russian Government incline to the plan of vassal and tributary autonomous States. Such an arrangement would not alter the political and territorial *status quo* of Turkey, while it would lighten the burden which now exhausts the financial resources of the Porte.

The plan to which Russia had recently given her adherence tended indirectly towards the same end, but perhaps it would be better to lay down the principle clearly. It would satisfy the insurgent Provinces, and would give the Powers the right and the means to restrict them within the limits of this solution.

The arrangement, Prince Gortchakow thinks, would be rendered more complete if, at the same time, the Porte would cede to Montenegro a port and some adjacent portions of territory, and would hand over Little Zvornik to Servia. These Principalities would thus be interested in the maintenance of pacific relations with Turkey, and a tolerably satisfactory state of affairs would have been brought about. It would only remain for the Powers to ensure its continuance on either side.

The Russian Government have no wish to exercise undue pressure upon that of Turkey, but if these views were recommended by the Powers, and especially by England, who is in a position to make herself heard at Constantinople, they would be prepared to give them their full support.

Prince Gortchakow goes on to say that he agrees in my objection to compromises as unsatisfactory. He fears that a *règlement* such as that adopted in Crete, if taken as the extreme limit of concession by the Porte, would be open to this objection. In Crete itself this *règlement* is far from having satisfied the country. It is doubtful whether the insurgents in Bosnia and the Herzegovina would be contented with it. Supposing that they prolonged their resistance it is doubtful whether the Turks would be willing to make concessions when once they had mastered the insurrection. In such a case, his Highness understands that I consider European action is admissible to prevent the extermination of the Christians. Such action would then become inevitable. But would it not be more usefully exercised in averting these extremities by precise proposals unanimously supported. There is time to mature such proposals. Without placing too much confidence in the new Sultan, already beset by the contending factions around him, the Russian Government believe his intentions to be good, and desire no more than to let them have free scope.

Russia has consented to the adjournment of all collective action for an indeterminate period. Without objecting to my proposal of three or four weeks, Prince Gortchakow thinks that we should not tie ourselves down to this term. It must rest with the Powers to determine the moment when common action will be useful, as soon as they have acquired sufficient evidence of the programme of the new Government. They will do well to make use of the interval to agree on the combinations which they shall propose.

For this reason, Prince Gortchakow says, the Emperor hopes that Her Majesty's Government will not persist in making the progress of further discussion dependent upon events, but will at once impart their views upon the considerations set forth above.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 477.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 12, 1876.

ON receiving Sir Andrew Buchanan's telegram of the 7th instant, I spoke to Raschid Pasha of Count Andrassy's hope that the Sultan's recent Proclamation to the insurgents in Bosnia and the Herzegovina will be followed by a declaration that the Porte will abide by its previous engagements with regard to them.

His Excellency informed me that orders in that sense had already been sent to the authorities in the insurgent provinces, and that the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna had been instructed to inform Count Andrassy of the fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 478.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report from Mr. Sandison, respecting the answer given by Prince Milan to the inquiries of the Grand Vizier, as to the motives of the military preparations in Servia, which has greatly pleased the Porte by its conciliatory character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 478.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, June* 10, 1876.

IN answer to the Grand Vizier's telegram to Prince Milan, the Porte has received most satisfactory assurances to the effect that though Servia could not well help providing for defensive measures in presence of the Turkish forces concentrated on her frontiers, she was far from having any hostile designs; that she considered she had to rely for her existence on the integrity of the Ottoman Empire; and that she would soon send a Delegate to Constantinople, who would convey further assurances of peace and feelings of good neighbourhood towards the Sublime Porte.

Rashid Pasha observed that the Prince of Servia is not known to have used such conciliatory language before.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 479.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 22.)

(Extract.) *Ragusa, June* 14, 1876.

ALL my information goes to prove Montenegro is hastening her military preparations, and profiting to the utmost by the opportunity that indecision affords her.

The port of Cattaro has recently been reopened for the disembarkation of military stores destined for Montenegro, which Principality is virtually at war with Turkey; and Prince Nikita's troops are being armed with rifles purchased from Austria, and transported to their destination in vessels chartered from a mercantile Company enjoying an Imperial subvention. The town of Ragusa is daily visited by armed insurgents who are at Vienna represented to be peaceable Dalmatians from the rural districts, or Montenegrins on their travels, whose costume would be incomplete without the traditional carbine and poniards. Some time ago it is true the communal authorities, at the instance of the central Government, ordered that all arms found in the possession of the refugees should be confiscated, but it is notorious that the

weapons so seized were restored to those of the refugees who undertook to join the ranks of their insurgent brethren in the field. During the period in which the export of munitions of war was suspended, the contraband traffic was openly carried on at Ragusa and Megline without hindrance; cases of dynamite were passed over the frontier to be used for the destruction of the Turkish forts and blockhouses; and it is alleged that certain military stores have been furnished to the insurgents at Grebzi by way of Ombla. The share taken by Austrian subjects in the late battles of the Douga Pass is notorious; it is now known that 179 Crevoscians were killed during the three days' fighting; but, as far as I am aware, no measures have been taken to prevent a repetition of such violations of neutrality.

My own conviction is, that had it not been for the money spent by Russian and by Dalmatian Panslavist Committees upon certain influential Chiefs, the insurrection would long since have collapsed. The mass of the population of the revolted districts would probably from the outset have been contented if they could have obtained a hearing for the agrarian grievances under which they undoubtedly laboured. As it is, a large proportion of them have not resorted to arms; and those who are now combatants belong to the exceptionally privileged districts, such as Zoubci, Banjani, and Piva, where the taxes, supplemented by a subvention from the Porte, are devoted wholly to the maintenance of a corps of Pandours, and where no Mussulman Tribunals were in existence to provoke complaints of perversion of justice. Of the 60,000 Latin Christians living in the neighbourhood of Mostar, it is declared that not ten individuals have joined the insurgent camp; whilst the inhabitants of the district of Popowo, who emigrated in a panic, caused by the massacre of seven Christians by the Bashi-Bazouks, appear to be only restrained from returning home by the influence of the Slav Committees and the fear of Montenegrin vengeance; and have for some time, as I have recently reported to your Lordship, daily crossed the frontier to work in their fields, which are now in a fair state of cultivation. In fact, the purely agrarian population of the insurgent districts, comprising that portion whose grievances are well founded, are almost entirely refugees; the combatants are from the districts conterminous with Montenegro, and are by no means numerous, not exceeding, I should say, 5,000 men, their fighting strength being made up, as occasion requires, by reinforcements of Montenegrins and Dalmatians, and directed by a few Russian volunteers.

If these considerations are correct, as I honestly believe them to be, it is clear that, as far as the Herzegovina is concerned, a great step in the suppression of the insurrection would be effected if the Austrian Government would dissolve the Panslavist Committees, enforce a strict surveillance of the frontier, and would absolutely forbid and put down the export of arms and ammunition to Montenegro.

It is well understood here that the refugees are not to be allowed to return home; and I fear that all the efforts of Wassa Effendi, and any amount of promises of food and safety will not tempt them across the frontier in defiance of the warnings of the Panslavist Committees. They have been encouraged to look for the armed intervention of Europe in their behalf, and they will not expose themselves to the vengeance of the insurgent combatants by taking any step to diminish the chance of such intervention.

No. 480.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 22.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, June* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the text in Turkish and Slav of the Proclamation issued at Mostar by Ali Pasha on the 29th May, 10th June, 1876, together with a translation of the same.

Your Lordship will already have been apprized of the nature of the Proclamation, which offers to the insurgents a term of six weeks wherein to make their submission; and states that during that time no military operations other than the revictualling of Nichsich will be undertaken by the Turkish troops.

The bulk of the insurgent force is now collected in the district of Banjani, close to the Montenegrin frontier. It is generally believed that that force will oppose no resistance to the revictualling of Nichsich.

The Turks persist that the insurgent Chief Socica has died of the wounds he received during the battles of the Donga last month. The Russian Consulate,

however, informs me that, although Socici has been very ill with typhus, he is now recovering.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 480.

Proclamation.

(Translation.)

HIS Imperial Majesty Sultan Murad Khan, our august Sovereign and Lord, in order to give a proof of his high bounty and benevolence, has deigned to grant a general amnesty to all his subjects in Bosnia and the Herzegovine, who have fallen into the paths of disobedience.

That you may be enabled to submit yourselves and return to your homes with the object of laying your complaints and bringing your demands before the local authorities, His Majesty is pleased to accord you a term of six weeks from the date of this Proclamation.

Orders have been given to the functionaries of the Government to listen with kindness and equity to your complaints; and to take all the measures necessary to assure the safety of those families which have not yet returned to their homes. Orders have also been given to the Commanders of the Imperial troops to suspend all military operations with the exception of those undertaken for the revictualling of Nichsich.

Such are the sentiments of kindness and tenderness which His Majesty the Sultan has been pleased to make known to you through our instrumentality.

The Imperial Commissary,
(Signed) ALI.

Mostar, $\frac{\text{May } 29}{\text{June } 10}$, 1876.

No. 481.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 22*, 1876.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador called to-day and said that he was instructed to communicate to me the views of his Government on the present state of the question of the insurgent Turkish provinces.

It would be a mistake, he said, to suppose that the insurgents had no other object in view than the separation of the revolted provinces of Turkey and their independence. A considerable number of insurgents had already returned to their peaceful occupations, and among the refugees the prevailing desire was to return to their homes.

The public press represented that the insurgents would insist on a declaration of independence. The facts were not in accordance with these statements; on the contrary, the present time was more favourable than ever for an attempt at pacification, particularly after the attitude that Her Majesty's Government had assumed, and which had the effect of discouraging any excessive pretensions of the insurgents.

On the other hand, a resolution which would confine the Powers to a passive policy, and which would tend to leave the two parties in conflict, could only serve to give them courage, and to favour the designs of their friends. To admit this point of view would be to recognize indirectly that the independence of the revolted provinces would be the reward of their resistance. It would then follow that Russia, not being able to take up a position more favourable to Turkey than England, would naturally turn all her influence in the Balkan Peninsula away from any attempt of pacification, instead of facilitating it. Without doubt the question would be raised again at the end of six weeks under circumstances infinitely less favourable to a solution. Of what use then would have been the resistance of Her Majesty's Government to these recent arrangements?

At the present moment, he continued, a moderate and benevolent policy of the Powers towards Turkey, supposing that the latter paid attention to their wishes, was infinitely easier than it would be at the end of six weeks, when, failing the support of the Powers, it would be made apparent that the Turkish Government had neither succeeded in pacifying the provinces nor in accomplishing the promised reforms.

There would then be new pretexts for meeting the exigencies of the situation by the employment of more radical methods, and the chances of a specific solution would be considerably diminished.

These were the reasons why the six weeks' armistice should not be understood as an admission that during this interval the Powers would remain passive and accept as conclusive the events which might take place during that period. On the contrary, advantage ought to be taken of the interval to facilitate and hasten the attempts at pacification which might proceed from the Porte.

If Her Majesty's Government, he said, would adopt this point of view, there need be no fear for the present of any opposition on the part of Russia, as the Emperor Alexander sincerely desired peace.

If, on the contrary, no advantage were taken of the present moment to make use of the favourable opportunity which it offered, it would be very difficult, in view of a failure on the part of the Porte, to repress the violence of public opinion in Russia, and to escape from the results of the consequent pressure on the part of the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh.

Perhaps it might be supposed that the Ottoman Government would come off victor on the renewal of hostilities; it would appear, indeed, that this was the view prevailing at Constantinople, and explained in a great measure the attitude of the Turkish Government. But according to trustworthy reports Turkey had only 40,000 men to put into the field against Servia and Montenegro, whilst Servia alone could dispose of 96,000 men. Thus, any calculations based upon a certain victory for Turkey might very probably turn out erroneous.

In any case it would be not only desirable but necessary to know definitely what were the intentions of the British Government. If its intention were to leave matters alone the Austrian Government would take its own course, on the firm conviction that, as regards the reciprocal interests of the two countries, there could be no difference of principle, and that in the greater number of cases which might present themselves it would be easy to come to an understanding. If, on the other hand, the British Government would endeavour in concert with Austria to bring about a pacification, the Austrian Government would be better satisfied. Between these two extremes, that is to say a scheme of pacification energetically carried out and an attitude of absolute non-interference, it would appear that the British Government should make its choice, and it was its own interest no less than that of the Austrian Government, that a positive decision should be arrived at in one way or the other with the view to avoid a wavering policy prejudicial to commerce and industry, and inconvenient to the surrounding countries.

His Excellency then adverted to the question of Montenegro, and said that he was informed by Count Andrassy that the British Ambassador at Vienna had, by order of Her Majesty's Government, communicated to him an extract of a telegram from Sir H. Elliot, who, it appeared, thought it would be advisable to prevail upon the Prince of Montenegro to follow the example of Servia in sending a Special Envoy to Constantinople to congratulate the Sultan, as in this case the Porte might perhaps be inclined to make concessions to Montenegro.

Count Andrassy, he went on to say, being afraid that Prince Nicholas would look upon this proposition as an attempt to obtain from him an indirect acknowledgment of the Suzerain rights of the Porte, and in view also of the line taken by Servia, did not deem it advisable to act upon this proposal of Her Majesty's Government. He believed, however, that it would be possible to attain the same end by other means, and had therefore sent the following instructions to Count Zichy by telegraph :—

"According to information he had received Servia was preparing for war more actively than ever. The Servian Government had ordered 50,000 Chassepots, to be delivered in ten days, and had also eleven batteries of artillery from Krupp, which were to be delivered as soon as possible, and to be imported through Roumania. It seemed to him that from this it was to be inferred that Servia was preparing for immediate and hostile action in the event of her proposals being rejected at Constantinople. He heard from the English Government that it was thought likely to be beneficial at Constantinople if the Prince of Montenegro could be prevailed upon to imitate the example of Servia, and to send an Envoy to congratulate the Sultan. He did not believe that it would be possible to induce the Prince to adopt such a course. On the other hand, however, there was no doubt that the antagonism betweeen Servia and Montenegro was as strong as ever at the present moment. It might therefore be possible to attain the end Sir H. Elliot had in view by causing a communication to be made by the Grand Vizier to Prince Nicholas to the following effect :—"That the

Porte having granted an armistice of six weeks, and being resolved to keep all the promises it had made in favour of the Christians, relied on the Prince exerting his moral influence with the insurgents with a view to effecting the pacification of the insurgent provinces."

At the same time a further communication should be made to the Prince through the Governor of Scutari or some other fit person, conveying a promise from the Porte that if the pacification were effected through Prince Nicholas' agency, his demands and wishes would be attended to, as far as possible, when the question of the limitation of the frontier was again brought forward.

His Excellency concluded by stating that Count Andrassy said that it would be most agreeable to himself, and, he thought, in the interests of England, if Her Majesty's Government would support this proposal at Constantinople.

With reference to the question put to Her Majesty's Government by Count Andrassy whether Her Majesty's Government intended to move in Eastern affairs or to let them take their course, I stated to Count Beust that Her Majesty's Government have never laid down as a rule for themselves a policy of isolation or of non-interference in these affairs. Her Majesty's Government accepted the propositions contained in Count Andrassy's note of the 30th December last, and would have been prepared to accept also the Memorandum drawn up at Berlin, but for the objections to its substance, which were clearly stated at the time.

Her Majesty's Government, I said, are ready to take part in the work of pacification when they see a chance of doing so with effect. If they now abstain it is only because they see nothing to be done. When circumstances lead them to alter that opinion their inaction will cease.

The Government of Austria-Hungary appeared to take a more sanguine view of the prospects of pacification than Her Majesty's Government have been led to do, and I could not but be glad of it, and hope that they were right.

I said that I would let his Excellency know hereafter the opinion which Her Majesty's Government might form with regard to Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 482.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

My Lord, *Rome, June 19, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th instant, reporting that I had communicated to the Italian Government the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, that instructions should be given to the commanding officers of the various fleets soon to be assembled in Turkish waters to avoid any occasion of contravening the provisions of the Treaty of 1841 with Turkey, I now have the honour to inclose translation of a note addressed to me by the Foreign Minister, informing me that all Italian commanding officers are instructed to conform scrupulously to the obligations arising from international stipulations, and assuring me confidently that the desired understanding in this matter will hold good between the English and the Italian Commanding Officers, without its being necessary to send new instructions to the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 482.

M. Melegari to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Rome, June 17, 1876.*

IN accordance with the instructions of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, your Excellency did me the honour to inform me that, on the occasion in which considerable naval forces found themselves united in Turkish waters, the Admiral commanding the English fleet had particular instructions to avoid carefully any violation of the Treaties of 1841, 1856, and 1871, which regulate the navigation of the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus. At the same time your Excellency made known to me that the Queen's Government would suggest that the attention of

the Commandants of the naval forces of the other States should be called to those Treaties, and you assure me of the satisfaction which the Cabinet of London would feel on hearing that the instructions given by the King's Government to the Commandants of the Italian forces are such as to insure on this matter the most perfect agreement between the same and the British Admiralty.

I thank you for this courteous communication, and I am glad to be able to give you on this subject an answer which will not leave any doubt, I hope, in the minds of the Queen's Ministers respecting the perfect agreement which exists, and has never ceased to exist between the Commandants of the Italian naval forces and the Admiral of the English fleet in as far as refers to the observance of the clauses of the Treaties mentioned in your Excellency's communication. The Italian Admiral commanding the Naval Division at present in Turkish waters, as well as all the Commandants of His Majesty's naval forces, are perfectly cognizant of the obligations which proceed from international stipulations, and, by their instructions, they must conform themselves scrupulously to them. I can, therefore, with all confidence, give your Excellency the assurance that the understanding wished for in this matter by Her Britannic Majesty's Government will hold good between the Italian Commandants and English, without its being necessary to send new instructions to the Admiral commanding the Italian Naval Division.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MELEGARI.

No. 483.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 23.)

My Lord, *Rome, June 19, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that in an interview which I had yesterday with M. Melegari, his Excellency read to me some telegrams which he had received from the Italian Minister at Constantinople since the assassination of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of War.

Count Corti, in his first telegram, states that this horrible event had created a perfect panic, but he does not hint even at the advisability of the fleet coming up. M. Melegari indeed seemed much astonished when I said I believed such an idea had been mooted by some of the foreign Representatives.

In subsequent telegrams Count Corti reports that perfect tranquillity prevails.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 484.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 23, 1876.*

COUNT BEUST called upon me to-day and read to me two telegrams which he had received from Count Andrassy, and which contained unsatisfactory information as to the intentions of both Servia and Montenegro.

According to these despatches it had been reported by the Imperial Agent at Belgrade that the mobilization of the whole of the first class of the Servian militia, consisting of almost 60,000 men, had been ordered. This news had been confirmed from the frontier. It was calculated that the armaments would be completed during the course of the present week, when Prince Milan would start for the frontier and issue his Proclamations. The commencement of hostilities had been fixed for the first week in July; but it was the intention of Servia to endeavour to provoke an attack on the part of Turkey.

The reports from Montenegro were, Count Beust said, equally discouraging. The situation was stated by Count Andrassy to have changed for the worse. The insurgents were still ready to submit but were not at liberty to do so, their decision depending upon the wish of the Prince of Montenegro. Count Andrassy had endeavoured to influence the Prince to support the policy of pacification, but his reply, given through the President of the Senate, M. Petrovich, at present at Vienna, had been that Servia was alone to act, and that when she did so it would be impossible for him, in face of

the existing feeling in Montenegro, to avoid joining the movement. The Prince had, indeed, given the assurance that he would be ready to act in the sense of pacification if Servia were prevented by a European intervention from going to war; but Count Andrassy was of opinion that such an intervention was no longer possible, as the recent representations of the Powers at Belgrade had been fruitless.

The centre of gravitation was, Count Andrassy observed, at Belgrade; and he had promised to inform Count Beust what course appeared to him to be practicable under the circumstances, as soon as he should have had time to consider a proposition which had been communicated to him by the Russian Ambassador, and which apparently was founded on a conversation which I had had with Count Schouvaloff.

I thanked Count Beust for the perusal of these telegrams. His Excellency then inquired whether I would inform him of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to Montenegro, which I had promised to communicate to him in our conversation of the previous day. I stated that Her Majesty's Government saw no objection in principle to the proposal of the Austro-Hungarian Government that the Porte should be encouraged to negotiate directly with the Prince on the understanding that if he assisted in the work of pacification he should receive some territorial concessions in recognition of his services. I pointed out, however, that the language of Count Andrassy's communication to Count Zichy was extremely vague as to the nature and extent of the concessions which it was suggested that the Porte should make in return for the Prince's assistance, and observed that the Porte might hesitate to commit itself without a clearer conception of the sacrifices which it might be called upon to incur.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 485.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 24.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, June 16, 1876.*

IT is understood here that Moukhtar Pasha has started on another victualling expedition to Nichsich, and intends dividing his force and moving upon that fortress in parallel lines. Also that the insurgents will not oppose him, having other operations in view.

M. Wassiltchikoff, who has been for some six months at Cettigné as Superintendent of the Russian Ambulance, has arrived this day at Ragusa, and will remain here until the return from Ems and Vienna of M. Jonine, the Russian Consul-General. M. Wassiltchikoff has recently been to Scutari to investigate the military preparations which the Turks have been making for an attack on Montenegro.

I am assured that the Austrian Government has reduced the daily allowance to the refugees to 5 kreutzers a head.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 486.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 24.)

(Extract.) *Paris, June 23, 1876.*

IN a conversation which I had with the Duc Decazes this morning, he again urged the importance of establishing a complete accord between the six Great Powers on the Eastern question, and of making that accord apparent.

He said that it had occurred to him that the object might be attained by the six Powers uniting and giving to Servia a strong and solemn warning to forbear from making war upon the Porte.

Such a warning was, the Duke proceeded to observe, very much needed at the present moment, and it might, he thought, have the effect of preventing the spread of the conflagration which was menacing Turkey in Europe. In fact, the accounts he received from the Herzegovina gave him reason to suppose that the armistice granted by the Sultan had produced a virtual suspension of hostilities. The Ottoman troops appeared to have revictualled Nichsich without meeting with any resistance; and the

recent acts of violence had been confined to seizures of cattle, which might be the work of robbers as well as of insurgents. There was, moreover, a manifest disposition on the part of large numbers of the refugees to return to their homes, if only they could be sure of protection from the insurgents who remained in arms. In this state of things, there appeared to be a fair hope that a pacification might be effected, if only Servia and Montenegro could be kept quiet. As for the movement in Bulgaria, it seemed to have already subsided, but all the intelligence he received from Servia showed that preparations for war were being continued with the greatest activity, and that hostility to the Porte was on the increase. Very firm and distinct language on the part of all the six Powers might, however, suffice to restrain Servia, while means might be found of conciliating Montenegro.

The one thing, however, to which the Duc Decazes himself attached importance was, he said, the adoption of some measure in common, which would make the union of the six Powers evident. A collective warning to Servia had occurred to him as a measure useful in itself and conducive to this end; but, in truth, the form in which the union of the Powers manifested itself was with him a very secondary consideration.

I send by the messenger, Captain Hare, this evening a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, under flying seal to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna.

No. 487.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 24, 1876.

ASSUMING the correctness of the information contained in Mr. Monson's despatch of the 14th instant, which has passed through your Excellency's hands, it is clear that Dalmatia is still the main basis for the transport of supplies to Montenegro, destined ultimately for the use of the insurgents, and those acting with them in their operations in Herzegovina. Mr. Monson states that the port of Cattaro has recently been re-opened for the disembarkation of military stores on their way to Montenegro; that Prince Nikita's troops are armed with rifles, purchased from Austria, and brought on board vessels chartered from a Company enjoying an Imperial subvention; that Ragusa is daily visited by armed insurgents; that it is notorious that Austrian subjects took part against the Turks in the battles at the Douga Pass; and that the insurrection is fomented by the Panslavist Committees, who, under the shelter of Austrian territory, collect and forward munitions of war, and exert their influence to prevent the refugees who are willing to return to their homes from re-crossing the frontier.

If these reports are to be trusted, and it is difficult to believe that an intelligent observer can be mistaken who speaks of what is daily passing under his own eyes, it is obvious that should the Austrian frontier be effectually sealed, and the Panslavist Committees be suppressed, the work of pacification, which Count Andrassy so earnestly wishes to promote, would be much simplified; if the insurgents in arms found themselves thrown upon their own resources, and the refugees who were willing to return, saw the path open to them, there would unquestionably be a better prospect than there can be under present circumstances of the armistice being profitably employed.

I have already instructed your Excellency to call Count Andrassy's attention to the reports of the landing of munitions of war at Cattaro; I should wish you to speak to him on the subject, mentioning in detail the nature of the reports which have been received; and to assure him, that Her Majesty's Government, while perfectly aware of the difficulties in which the Austrian authorities are placed, who have to watch an irregular and extended frontier, would yet earnestly urge the importance of such steps being taken as would prevent the open transport of supplies through Dalmatia, would cause the frontier to be more vigilantly guarded, and would check the mischievous action of the insurrectionary Committees.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 488.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 24, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday, in which I informed your Excellency of the language which I have used to Count Beust respecting Count Andrassy's suggestions as to the communication to be made by the Porte to the Prince of Montenegro, I have to request you to state to Count Andrassy that Sir H. Elliot has reported by telegraph* that he had strongly advised that steps should be taken with the view of endeavouring to detach Montenegro from Servia. He had represented that, as Nichsich had been re-victualled without opposition on the part of the insurgents, a favourable opportunity had offered itself for the Turkish Government to send a message to the Prince of Montenegro, to the effect that they recognized the fact that he was asserting his influence over his subjects to prevent their joining in the conflict, and that they would, when tranquillity should be restored, be willing to consider what it might be possible to concede in regard to matters which he had at heart. These representations have been entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 489.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 26.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot relative to the sense of insecurity which prevails in the interior in consequence of the alleged insubordination of the Rediffs, and reporting the suggestion which I, in concert with my Italian colleague, have offered to the Governor-General in the interest of order and tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 489.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, June* 12, 1876.

ALTHOUGH the Christians in this city have in a very great measure recovered from their alarm; and although the accession of Sultan Murad has very much contributed to draw together the leading men of all classes of the inhabitants, and to attenuate the disturbing effects produced by the recent occurrences at this place, still, in the interior, I am informed, there is a feeling of insecurity among the Christian inhabitants, which is growing in intensity under the alleged insubordination of the Rediff troops.

There are many reports abroad that these Rediffs perpetrate disorders in the Christian villages through which they pass, and cause much anxiety and inconvenience to the peasantry.

I cannot yet report whether these complaints are based on well averred facts, but as there are parties who are industriously trying to promote ill-feeling between Mahomedans and Christians in order to disturb and subdue the good effects which have so far resulted from the deposition of Sultan Aziz and the Proclamation of Sultan Murad, I proposed to my Italian colleague, who has acted cordially with me throughout the recent events, to call together on the Governor-General and unofficially invite his attention to these reports, and offer some suggestions in the interest of order and tranquillity.

M. Foscarini approved of my suggestion, and we both waited on his Excellency the Governor-General on Saturday afternoon the 10th instant, and, after assuring him and Vahan Effendi, the Imperial Commissioner, who was present at the interview, that

* See No. 528.

the object of our unofficial visit was not dictated by any intention to interfere in the local administration, and after receiving from their Excellencies every encouragement to communicate freely our views, I referred to the reports in question, and pointed out to them how easily they are seized by designing parties and made use of in a way to give them more importance in the present political circumstances of the Empire.

His Excellency Eshref Pasha observed to us that he had received several complaints of the insubordinate conduct of the Redif men while proceeding from their homes to the depôts, and that he had caused an inquiry to be made into their conduct, which, however, he had reason to think was exaggerated by public rumour.

I proposed, with a view to promote confidence among all classes of the peasantry, and to check disorders, that a notification should be addressed to the inhabitants, announcing the good relations which had been promoted between the Mohamedans and Christians in the capital and other cities of the Empire, by the Proclamation of Sultan Murad, and calling upon the peaceable and loyal inhabitants to act cordially together in the interest of order and quiet, warning, at the same time, all evil-intentioned persons who may attempt to foment ill-feeling and disturbances, that they will be pursued and severely punished; that circular instructions should be addressed to all the provincial and district Governors (Mutessarifs, Kaïmakams, and Mudirs), enjoining them to follow a line of policy in accordance with the above notification, and to take all necessary precautions to protect the people from disorders, especially to superintend the enrolment and movements of the Redif detachments; and, as it is the practice when there is a call of Redifs to send to the several villages, through the civil authorities of every district and sub-district, the muster-roll of the men who are liable to service, with orders to these men to proceed to their respective depôts, and as these men are not attended on their way by any officers or persons in authority, I also suggested that the sub-Governors should cause the "Muhtars" (Primates) of the villages to take charge of the men called out, and accompany them to their depôts, using their influence and authority to prevent them from committing disorders.

Eshref Pasha thanked us cordially for our visit, and expressed his appreciation of the motives which prompted it. Moreover, he appeared to enter into the spirit of our suggestions, and promised to carry them out.

Indeed he summoned his secretary, and in our presence dictated a Circular instruction to the subordinate Governors in the sense I recommended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 490.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 26.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 13, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed a copy of a Report, with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, upon the pursuit of the Bulgarian insurgents by the Ottoman troops in the Balkans; and upon the failure of the efforts which have been made to excite a rising of the Bulgarians in the Province of Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 490.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, June 13, 1876*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract of a letter from Ichtiman, dated the 26th ultimo, furnishing some information on the pursuit of the Bulgarian insurgents by the Ottoman troops in the Balkans.

Ichtiman is a small town between Sofia and Tatar Bazarjik.

The efforts which have been made, as I telegraphed to your Excellency on the 22nd ultimo, to extend the insurrectionary movement in the Bulgarian districts of Macedonia have failed, owing to the prompt and energetic action of the

Turkish military authorities, and also to the indisposition of the people to join the movement.

Some Servian emissaries, with about thirty insurgents, made an irruption into the mountainous district of Malish, burnt some Bulgarian houses, hoping thus to force the Bulgarians to rise, and massacred some Mahomedans, but they were dispersed, and I now hear that several of them have been apprehended.

The Governor-General of Salonica informs me that he continues to receive satisfactory accounts of the quiet disposition of the Bulgarian peasants in his province.

I am also informed that the secret agents of the authorities have discovered traces of a "Bulgarian Comité" in this town, under the direction of foreign influence, who employed emissaries to foment disturbances in the interior.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 490.

Extract of a Letter from Ichtiman, dated May 26, 1876.

NOUS partîmes de Nish à marche forcée en passant par Sofia et Ichtiman. Nous nous rendîmes sur les Balkans qui conduisent à Bazarjik, où nous attendait Hassan Pacha, notre actuel Commandant. A peine un peu reposés nous nous divisâmes en trois corps. D'un côté mon bataillon et un autre (2nd Réserve), une compagnie de Chasseurs avec deux canons tirés par de robustes mulets et dix conducteurs Circassiens qui devaient nous conduire de montagne en montagne en face à l'ennemi retranché dans une espèce de forteresse provisoire. De l'autre Hassan Pacha parti aussi avec un bataillon et deux canons pour se rendre au haut d'une autre montagne pour défendre notre retraite, ou bien pour empêcher la fuite aux insurgés. Après deux heures de marche par des endroits les plus difficiles nous fûmes surpris par des coups de fusils tirés sur nous d'un forêt. Mon bataillon répond par une décharge générale.

On se met à l'assaut, et on ne trouve plus personne. Nous reprenons notre marche; après deux heures nous nous rencontrons avec Hassan Pacha et vers 7 heures nous voici devant le fort plein de Bulgares.

Selon le Pacha cinquantes hommes courageux et déterminés auraient suffi à nous donner la défaite, mais c'était de lâches!

A peine avions nous tirés quelques coups de canons que le fort tombe et plus de 2,000 Bulgares se donnent à la fuite. Nous les suivons en déchargeant sur eux nos fusils et nos canons.

Ceux qui échappèrent à notre décharge furent accueillis au haut de la montagne par la décharge de l'autre bataillon.

Un petit nombre seulement se sauva par la fuite; les autres, trois prêtres y compris, trouvèrent la mort.

A 11 heures, sans avoir perdu un seul homme, nous arrivions victorieux sur un autre Balkan. Le lendemain nous nous remîmes en marche, brulant sans pitié quelques villages qui se trouvaient sur notre chemin et nous emparant des animaux.

Nous envoyâmes 10,000 bestiaux à Sofia; un nombre égal à Bazarjik, sans compter ceux que chaque bataillon avait pour se nourrir.

Après huit jours de marche, nous arrivâmes avec deux canons à Belova, où les insurgés se rendirent sans résistance et furent faits prisonniers.

Maintenant nous voici de retour ici, tranquilles pour le moment Le Pacha est reparti avec deux bataillons et demi de Cavallerie pour Samakof, Kenstendil et Uscup.

(Translation.)

WE left Nish and proceeded by forced marches viâ Sofia and Ichtiman. We thence went to the Balkans which lead to Bazarjik, where Hassan Pasha, who now commands us, was waiting for us. After a very short rest we were divided into three corps. My battalion went in one direction, with another (2nd Reserve), a company of Chasseurs with two guns horsed by stout mules, and ten Circassian guides, who were to lead us from mountain to mountain to the front of the enemy, who was entrenched in a kind of provisional stronghold. Hassan Pasha started in another direction, also with one battalion and two guns, and was to proceed to the summit of another

mountain, with a view to protect our retreat, or to cut off that of the insurgents. After two hours' march over most difficult ground, we were surprised by shots fired at us from a forest. My battalion replied with a volley.

An assault is made, but no one is found. We resume our march; in two hours we effect a junction with Hassan Pasha, and about 7 o'clock we find ourselves before the fort, which is full of Bulgarians.

According to the Pasha, fifty brave and determined men would have sufficed to repel us, but these men were cowards.

We had scarcely fired a few cannon shot when the fort fell, and more than 2,000 Bulgarians took to flight. We pursued them, firing at them both with guns and small arms.

Those who escaped our volleys received on the top of the mountain those of the other battalion. A small number only saved themselves by flight; the rest, including three priests, were killed.

At 11 o'clock, without having lost a single man, we victoriously reached another Balkan mountain.

On the following day we resumed our march, burning without compassion several villages which we passed, and seizing the live stock.

We sent 10,000 cattle to Sofia; an equal number to Bazarjik, without counting those which each battalion kept for its own use.

After a march of eight days we reached Belova with two guns, and there the insurgents surrendered without fighting, and were made prisoners.

Now we are back again here, quiet for the moment; the Pasha has left again for Samakof, Keusteudil and Uscup, with two battalions and half a regiment of cavalry.

No. 491.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 26.)

(Extract.) *Bosna Seraï, June 15, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Haidar Effendi has issued a proclamation of amnesty, of which I inclose copy herewith. A similar proclamation has been published by Ali Pasha and Wassa Effendi in the Herzegovina. I have only to remark that this measure is not likely to have the slightest effect on the insurgents in arms. It will not affect either the condition of the refugees, as the insurgents are not bound by it, and will be as free as ever to prevent their return to their homes.

On the 10th Moukhtar Pasha left Mostar for Gatzko, and it is believed that he will at once proceed to Nichsich. Of his further movements I have as yet no information.

On the 6th the authorities at Mostar announced to Baron Rodich the fact that 1,800 cases of rifles and their cartridges were being landed at Cattaro for the Montenegrins.

On the 9th Baron Rodich thanked them for the information, and said that he would order an inquiry into the matter and punish any illegality. Of course the arms will all be at Cettigné before he commences.

On the 8th a band of insurgents from Popovo, under the command of Mussich, appeared at Razno, whose inhabitants had returned to their homes, and drove off all their cattle, some 2,000 head.

Surely it would be much better for the Turkish authorities to cease their efforts to bring back the refugees, and declare the simple truth—that it is impossible either to provide for them or to protect them until tranquillity is restored.

Moukhtar Pasha requires all the means of transport for the army, and has declared that he cannot weaken himself by sending any troops to protect the returning refugees until a pacification is effected.

The north of Bosnia still continues the theatre of constant collisions between the Turks and the insurgents. A battle is said to have been fought a few days ago at a place between Priedor and Banialuka, in which, as usual, the Turks, according to official accounts, were the victors, and the insurgents dispersed.

There is very great uneasiness here on account of reports from Servia, and people believe that an invasion from the Principality is imminent. I do not think, however, that anything of the kind will take place at present.

The news of the engagement in the Servian service of the Russian General Chernaieff has added much to the popular agitation. Bands of Bashi-Bozouks are being sent off in the direction of the Servian frontier.

I think that the conduct of the Mussulman population in the interior of Bosnia has hitherto been most praiseworthy, but they are becoming wearied and exasperated by seeing matters going from bad to worse.

The general impression throughout these countries is that the only means of terminating the present disastrous situation are, that the European Powers should force Montenegro to abandon the tactics she has so long employed, or that Turkey should either make the concessions necessary to induce her to give the signal for pacification; or, as the only remaining alternative, declare war against her at whatever cost and risk.

People imagine that the late events at Constantinople will have furnished the necessary funds to do so effectually, and that any risk would be better than the certainty of utter ruin, and, perhaps, effusion of blood, in which the prolongation of the present situation, and the growing despair of the population, is likely to result.

Several Mussulmans have admitted to me that, in talking amongst themselves, there has been sometimes a disposition to take measures into their own hands, in utter despair, and either to perish or to drive the Christians out of the country. I have endeavoured to persuade them of the insanity of such a proceeding, which might result in their total subjugation to other races, which could do them no real good, and would certainly deprive them of all the sympathy which their hitherto patient and dignified conduct obtains from all who understand their real position.

To people residing in these countries, and who know the real state of parties, and the true nature of the insurrection, the idea of securing pacification by concessions to the insurgents appears simply absurd. In the first place, reforms and concessions cannot be executed until pacification is obtained, and, in the next, for reasons I have frequently explained to your Lordship, those who are in arms, and who keep up the insurrection, care nothing about them; they have other objects and other interests. It is clear, therefore, that other means of pacification must be sought for, and knowing that the conduct of Montenegro is at the root of the matter, I really cannot see any other than those above indicated.

No. 492.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 26.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 20, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, in translation from the Russian text by Mr. Michell, a letter addressed by General Chernaieff to the "Russki Mir," of which he is the proprietor.

After stating the object of his proceeding to Servia, General Chernaieff refers to the organization of Committees for aiding the independence of the Bulgarians along the whole course of the Danube, from the Russian frontier to the Servian boundary, and to the vast preparations made in Bulgaria for an insurrection against the Porte.

Passing from Bucharest to Belgrade, the General states that he found that preparations for war were being advanced, and that the Servians, relying on Russia, had remained passive for 11 months, thus enabling the Turkish Government to concentrate along their extended frontier an army of 60,000 men.

He likewise refers to the hopes which the Bulgarians placed in their Russian brethren, adding that the sympathy of the Servians for Russia is much stronger.

The General then explains the motive for his taking service in the Servian army, observing that, had he refused after his inspection of the Servian advanced position, his departure would have been interpreted by the enemies of the Slavs as a conviction on his part of the fruitlessness of the contemplated struggle.

He states that his conviction is entirely in a contrary sense, and that Servia can muster 125,000 well-armed troops, with 200 rifled guns and 24,000 cavalry, in addition to being able to provide 100,000 armed men for the protection and defence of the country.

The General closes his letter with expressing the hope that his countrymen will not condemn his taking service in the Servian army in the impending struggle for the emancipation of the Balkan Christians from the Turkish yoke.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 492.

General Chernaieff to the "Russki Mir."

(Translation.) *Belgrade, May* $\frac{16}{28}$, 1876.

I PROCEEDED to Servia with the object of making myself acquainted with the real state of affairs in the Turkish territories, in order that in communicating information to my own newspaper* I might be enabled to appreciate correctly the intelligence which is transmitted to Russia chiefly through the Austrian press, which is hostile to all Slavism generally. I chose the route by way of Kisheneff and the Danube, along the whole course of which, commencing from the Russian frontier to the Servian boundary, Committees were formed, towards the end of last year, for organizing the plans of the Bulgarians in their approaching struggle for independence.

Commencing from Bolgrad (a Bulgarian colony which fell away from Russia and became incorporated with Roumania by virtue of the Treaty of Paris), I everywhere heard the same thing, which was to the effect that all had been done that was possible by the people for the impending struggle. All the arms that could be found in Roumania had been bought up; many rifles which had been distributed by the Turkish Government among the Mussulman population had been obtained by the Bulgarians, and that powder was being manufactured in many places by the people themselves. Considerable stores of provisions had been removed to the Balkans and property secreted under ground.

"We only expect," I was told, "a general signal for attacking the Turks after first removing our families and cattle to the mountains; we still, however, require leaders and unanimity. We are keeping the people back so as to avoid useless sacrifices by a premature rising!"

I doubted the correctness of this information and particularly as regards the enthusiasm of the Committees being shared by the Bulgarian people across the Danube. The subsequent outbreak, however, confirmed the statements made to me. At the present moment, and now that a fortnight has elapsed since the first commencement of hostilities, the insurgent Bulgarians may, according to information possessed here, be numbered by thousands. Their movements are regulated by a fixed programme. The Bulgarian military organization is based on a gradual scale, commencing from a desiatka (10 men); 10 desiatkas form a cheta, 10 chetas a voevodstvo; 10 voevodstvos a head voevodstvo, the command over which will be intrusted to a Commander-in-chief. Seniority among the commanders will be reckoned from the day of their taking part in the insurrection. Until the people are seasoned under fire, all the military movements will be confined to partizan attacks on the communications; consisting chiefly in the destruction of railways, telegraphs, interception of courriers, posts, &c. An attack of Turkish detachments will only be allowed under specially favourable circumstances and under a considerable superiority of strength over the enemy. The first acts of the insurgents have been in strict accordance with this programme.

After quitting Bucharest I reached Belgrade, where I found that preparations for war were being pushed forward. As is known, the military force of the Principalities consists of militiamen (of regular troops there are only 4,000 or 5,000), who can be all mustered in fourteen days. The Servians, relying on Russia, remained quiet for eleven months, enabling the Turks to concentrate along their extended frontier about 60,000 men, a considerable quantity of Krupp artillery, and to form several fortified camps. The justice of their complaints against diplomacy can thus be understood. You will readily perceive why my arrival excited such sympathy. Not only at Belgrade, but also during my excursion into the interior, which I undertook with the sanction of Prince Milan for the purpose of examining, amongst other things, the state of the fortresses, did I hear of the strong hopes which the Bulgarians placed in their Russian brethren. This feeling of sympathy expressed may be, with greater strength at the present critical moment, always exists in the hearts of the Servian people, as is proved by the presence in every peasant's hut and wayside station of the portraits of our Emperors side by side with those of their esteemed Princes of the house of Obronovitch. Wherever I passed the people shouted "Long life to our Russian brethren! Long life to our orthodox Russian Tsar!"

On my return to Belgrade a proposal was made that I should enter the ranks of the Servian army. All vacillation on my part would, of course, have been misplaced; a refusal would have been tantamount to a desire to avoid the danger which threatened a kindred country from all sides. After the survey made by me of the advanced

* General Chernaieff is the registered proprietor of the "Russki Mir."—J. M.

positions my departure from Servia would have been interpreted by the enemies of the Slavs, who are very numerous, in the sense that I had become convinced of the impossibility of the contemplated struggle. My examinion, however, of the real state of matters assured me of the contrary. Servia can muster 125,000 well-armed popular troops, with 200 rifled guns and 24,000 horsemen for scout and outpost duties. In addition to this, the country is able to command 100,000 armed men for the protection and defence of their families and dwellings. It may generally be said that Servia possesses many conditions for a successful struggle against the Turks; victory, however, is in the hands of God. The nation is fervently devoted to the Obrenovitch dynasty and to its present representative Milan IV. Everything that we hear in Russian about the Karageorgevitch party, which is secretly supported by Austria, proceeds from the Austrian press, and every true Servian regards the few partizans of that party, who are in the pay of Austria, with the greatest contempt.

The communistic outbreak at Kraguevatz, which has been purposely magnified by the Austrian press with the intention of frightening Europe, is regarded by every Servian as a childish manifestation made by a few ignorant young men for obtaining political notoriety. The danger that threatens the Servian Government is not from this quarter. Every Servian, from the peasant to the senator, comprehends the importance of the present moment for the future of his country. It is universally felt that a struggle is as necessary to Servia for her moral justification as a duel is for the protection of a man's honour. I conclude this letter by expressing the hope that my countrymen will not condemn my determination to place myself in the ranks of the Servians in the impending struggle for the emancipation of the Balkan Christians from the degrading and insupportable Turkish yoke.

No. 493.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 26.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 20, 1876.

I COMMUNICATED to M. de Giers yesterday your Lordship's despatch of the 5th instant, instructing me to inform the Russian Government that the attention of the Admiral in command of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Mediterranean had been called by Her Majesty's Government to the provisions of the Treaty of July 13, 1841, as confirmed by the Treaties of 1856 and 1871 respecting the Dardanelles, and that he had been instructed to be careful to avoid any occasion of contravening them.

M. de Giers requested me to furnish him with a written communication in order that he might transmit it to Prince Gortchakow, and I accordingly addressed to him a note, copy of which I have the honour to annex.

His Excellency stated that the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government had already been brought before Prince Gortchakow by Count Schouvaloff, and by the Emperor's orders he had instructed the Minister of the Marine to send instructions to the Russian Naval Commander in the Mediterranean of a similar nature to those which Her Majesty's Government had addressed to the Admiral in command of Her Majesty's naval forces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 493.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé, *St. Petersburgh, June* 19, 1876.

IN obedience to the instructions of the Earl of Derby, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have called the attention of the Admiral in command of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Mediterranean to the provisions of the Treaty of July 13th, 1841, between Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey, respecting the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, as confirmed by the Treaties of 1856 and 1871, and have instructed him to be careful to avoid any occasion of contravening them.

As a considerable foreign naval force will soon be assembled in Turkish waters, it appears to Her Majesty's Government very desirable that the Powers whose fleets will be in company should give such instructions to the Admirals and Commanding Officers as may prevent any discussions arising under the provisions of the Treaty of July 13th, 1841.

Her Majesty's Government would suggest that the attention of the Admiral or other Senior Officers commanding the other fleets should be similarly called to the above Treaties, and would be glad to learn that instructions in the same sense had been given by the Imperial Government in order that there might be a complete understanding on the matter between the British Admiral and the Naval Commanders of the other Powers.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. LOFTUS.

No. 494.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 26.)

(Extract.) *St. Petersburgh, June 21, 1876.*

I HAD some conversation with M. de Giers to-day in regard to the attitude of Servia.

His Excellency stated that his late intelligence from Belgrade was not so satisfactory; that the military preparations still continued, and that since the return of the Russian Consul from Ems, when he had held very strong admonitory language to Prince Milan, the Servian Government had become cold and reserved, and no longer treated him with the same confidence and frankness as previously.

M. de Giers confessed that the present moment of calm rather filled him with alarm, as being the precursor of a storm. Both parties, viz., the Turks and the Servians, appeared to be preparing for the coming struggle.

In reply to my inquiry, M. de Giers said that he did not believe in the existence of any binding Treaty between Montenegro and Servia, but it was evident that if the one took up arms the other would follow.

I observed that, if Montenegro should join in hostilities against the Porte, the Porte would be perfectly authorized to attack Montenegro, and no other Power could call her to account for doing so. To this M. de Giers entirely assented, saying that it would be most imprudent for either of those Principalities to risk hostilities with the Porte.

I am persuaded that Russia is most anxious to prevent the present insurrection from extending and assuming larger proportions, and that, should such be the case, Russia will not interfere herself, nor will she permit any other foreign Power to interfere.

She will advocate the principle of non-intervention, and will be satisfied to let the parties fight it out, in the confident hope that the Christian element will come out victorious.

No. 495.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 27, 1876.*

IN the course of conversation I recently mentioned to the Turkish Ambassador at this Court that Her Majesty's Government strongly advised the Turkish Government to endeavour to make terms with Montenegro, which they fully believed to be possible.

A slight rectification of frontier might be promised in the event of the Prince of Montenegro exerting his influence to put an end to the insurrection.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 496.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 27, 1876.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd instant, in which you report that in the course of a conversation which you have had with the Duc Decazes his Excellency again urged the importance of establishing a complete accord between the six great Powers on the Eastern question, and pointed out the manner in which, in his opinion, this object could be attained, principally, as it appears to his Excellency, by a strong and solemn warning being given to Servia to forbear from aggressive measures towards the Porte.

I have to request that your Excellency will explain to the Duc Decazes, in accordance with the correspondence already in your possession, what has taken place in regard to the advice already given to Servia by Her Majesty's Government on the invitation of that of Austria.

Your Excellency will state to the Duc Decazes that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to repeat that advice, if the other Powers, whose influence over Servia is so apparent, are also ready to do so, and to show the reality of their sentiments by firmly discouraging the incentives to hostile measures against Turkey, which Servia is receiving from foreign agitators and agents of Slav Committees.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 497.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 27, 1876.*

THE Austrian Ambassador called upon me to-day, and repeated to me the substance of a telegraphic message which he had received from Count Andrassy, stating that in his opinion the idea of autonomy is not capable of realization for Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and giving briefly the reasons which have led him to that conclusion. In the first place, Count Andrassy said the circumstances of the country itself are opposed to such a plan. There is a mixed population of Christians and Mussulmans living together in every village; and, in the present state of feeling, an attempt to establish any form of self-government would be followed by a struggle between the two religions, ending in mutual extermination.

Other Provinces of European Turkey, on the other hand, such as Bulgaria, which is riper for autonomy, would equally demand it, and the insurrection would spread instead of dying out.

Nor would Servia and Montenegro be restrained by a concession of this kind made to the insurgent Provinces. These Principalities are preparing to take the field, not to conquer autonomy for the two Provinces, but with the ultimate object of annexing them.

The Porte, on the other hand, in face of the Servian and Montenegrin armaments, would not consent to withdraw its troops, feeling sure that instead of localising the movement, such withdrawal would only serve to extend it.

Count Andrassy went on to observe that he agreed in the opinion I had myself expressed that, if beaten, the insurgents would be content with the reforms already proposed, provided there were proper guarantees for their execution. Any proposals going beyond those reforms would be attended, he thought, by the following disadvantages:—

1. The Porte must be expected to refuse to agree to them, and the refusal would give strength and encouragement to the fanatical party at Constantinople.

2. The insurgents, on the other hand, would be equally encouraged to increase the demands, and would be less amenable than ever to advice.

3. The movement, now confined to Bosnia and the Hezegovine, would too probably extend over the whole of the Ottoman dominions in Europe.

For all these reasons Count Andrassy believes that it would be better to wait awhile, and let events clear themselves up ("laisser les événements se débrouiller") before trying any fresh diplomatic action, which could lead to no useful result, and would only compromise our future policy.

This, Count Beust said, was only Count Andrassy's personal opinion. He could not give it officially as the view of the Austrian Government, the Emperor's assent not having yet been obtained. Count Andrassy desired, however, that I should be made aware of it. The Austrian Government, Count Beust said, wished to consult us at every step, and were anxious to see the British Government draw closer to Russia.

Though more closely interested in the present question than any other Power, Austria did not wish to throw obstacles in the way of any plan which might bring together the Cabinets of England and Russia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 498.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 27, 1876.*

IN the communication from Count Andrassy of which I have given the substance in my previous despatch of this day, reference was made to a despatch addressed to the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh in October last, as giving in detail the objections which the Austrian Government saw to the proposal of granting to Bosnia a position of autonomy such as is guaranteed to the Principalities of Servia and Roumania.

Count Beust read to me the passage referred to, the substance of which is as follows:—

Leaving out of the question the fact that the proposal went farther than what there was any chance of obtaining from the Porte, it did not in itself appear to be practicable.

Whoever might be the Chief chosen to direct the new State, he would find himself in face of difficulties which might well be called insurmountable. If his dominions were to be restricted to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, it is difficult to imagine that a semi-independent Prince, called upon to govern 600,000 Mussulmans and about the same number of Christians of both rites, should be able to acquit himself of the task to the satisfaction of both parties. He would be compelled to rely on the support either of the former or the latter, and would infallibly lose on one side what he gained on the other. If, on the other hand, it were proposed to extend the power of the Prince of Servia or of Montenegro over Bosnia, he would have no choice; he would be compelled to sacrifice the Mahommedans, on penalty of seeing his former subjects revolt against his authority. As to the idea of confiding the Government of Bosnia to a hereditary and quasi-independent Pasha like the Khedive of Egypt, there was no reason to expect that such a measure, if put in practice, would improve in any way the condition of the Rayahs.

Whoever knows anything of the internal condition of Bosnia and the Herzegovina would admit that, in consequence of the extent to which the population is divided by religious animosities, these countries are less adapted than most others for a position of autonomy such as is possessed by the two vassal States of the Porte. On the other hand, while the conditions necessary for such a position are entirely wanting in these two provinces, the Ottoman Empire contains other countries where they exist. Bulgaria is an instance, inhabited almost exclusively by a Christian population, peaceable, devoted to agriculture, and whose perseverance has already succeeded in procuring the establishment of a national church. Supposing Bosnia, therefore, to be granted an autonomous Government, not only will this measure be powerless to remedy the evils which exist there, but the fact that it has been yielded to a mere display of force will seem to give to other countries a right to demand a similar concession. To grant a position of independence and autonomy, therefore, to Bosnia and the Herzegovina, would be an act of moral compulsion on the Bulgarians to imitate the action which had procured such results for the neighbouring provinces. Such an example would certainly act as a stimulus to the whole of the East. It is more than probable that Roumania would have no alternative but to demand complete independence. Would the Princes of Servia and Montenegro be able to maintain their authority over their subjects if they did not set about obtaining for them an equal position? It is doubtful whether in Greece even any Government would be strong enough to restrain the nation from joining in the conflict, when experience had shown that efforts so feeble had been attended with such success.

In one word, the despatch goes on to say, the plan of autonomy, if put in execution, so far from re-establishing security, would only serve to shake to its foundation everything that it was desired to consolidate. If ever there was a case in which the cure might be said to be worse than the disease, this would be it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 499.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 28.)

My Lord, *Scutari, June* 17, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot. I furnish his Excellency with the copy of a telegram forwarded to him by me on the 15th instant, and give fuller information regarding the declaration of the Prince of Montenegro to the Porte on the subject of the investment of his frontiers by Turkish troops, and about the march of Moukhtar Pasha towards Nichsich.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 499.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, June* 17, 1876.

THE Prince of Montenegro has declared to the Porte that the investment of his frontiers forces him to take steps to secure the safety of his country.

The declaration of the Prince of Montenegro to the Porte was made by telegraph, and, after enumerating at great length the annoyance and loss suffered through the concentration of Turkish troops on the frontiers, and asserting that neutral obligations had been hitherto loyally observed by the Montenegrins, His Highness concluded by intimating that the maintenance of the Turkish forces on his borders would oblige him to adopt measures to make them withdraw.

No further news has reached this of the progress of Moukhtar Pasha towards Nichsich, but all the troops on the southern frontier of Montenegro were yesterday kept in the field, manœuvring under the orders of Salem Pasha, and last night they camped out on the extreme limits of the Turkish territory. Should information arrive that Moukhtar Pasha has been attacked from the side of Montenegro, they would at once invade the Principality, and thus endeavour to create a diversion in his favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 500.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 28.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, June* 18, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the 16th instant, chiefly respecting the Circassians in this Vilayet, who, from the reports that are almost daily brought from the interior, are, together with the Bashi-Bazouks, keeping several districts in a state of great consternation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 500.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, June* 16, 1876.

IN several of my reports to your Excellency during the past three months I had the honour to bring to your knowledge the alleged conduct of the Circassians in the Vilayet.

I, at the same time, spoke to the Governor-General here unofficially on the subject, and his Excellency made such statements that I entertained some hope that a check would be put to the sinister proceedings of these people, which was and still is the principal topic of conversation throughout the Vilayet.

From what has reached me, however, from reliable quarters, it appears that these people are committing atrocities, chiefly amongst the villages near the Balkans, which keep the whole of that quarter in a state of the greatest terror.

Not relying on Christian information I endeavoured to ascertain from Mussulmans whether or not the reports brought here on the subject, were true.

Having heard of the arrival of a Mussulman, native of Plevna, who was present in the district during the whole rising, I got a trustworthy Bulgarian to endeavour to find out what this man had to say on the subject, and he managed to introduce himself into a café where the man was in company with various other Turks.

On my informant coming away, he at once made a note of what he had heard, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose, but which he gave me as a confidential communication and would on no account sign.

I next morning went to the Governor-General and told him what I had heard. His Excellency said that, although the Circassians had certainly committed acts of violence, still what I had heard was exaggerated. This has always been his reply on these occasions.

I heard yesterday that my French colleague had been instructed to ascertain the truth of what he had heard on the subject, and which agrees a good deal with what I am relating.

It is even actually said here that these Circassians are kidnapping children of Bulgarians killed in the late affairs.

From what I can make out, I am really inclined to think that the object at this moment, in the lately disturbed district of Tirnova, is to diminish the number of Bulgarians as much as possible, for it is said that the Circassians seem to be doing all this with the apparent connivance of the authorities.

I yesterday perused the letter from the wife of a missionary at Tultcha, giving an account of sinister proceedings on the part of the Circassians in that neighbourhood and relating how the German Colonists there were suffering therefrom, I have requested Vice-Consul Stokes of Sulina and Tultcha to ascertain and report to me the real facts.

The foregoing are only those few of the numerous sinister rumours in circulation here which, having heard confirmed by trustworthy persons here, I lay before your Excellency principally to show that there is some reason to think that a state of consternation, at least, at this moment exists amongst the Christian villages at the foot of the Balkans and in the Tirnova district; but to ascertain the real truth of which nothing but a personal visit to the spot would suffice, as no one on the spot, under the present state of things, dares to put anything to paper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 500.

(Translation.)

THIS morning I went to a café, where a Mussulman was sitting, in company with several Mussulmans of Rustchuk.

He was one of those sent against the insurgents, and this is what I heard him say:—

When asked whether he could be called a Ghazi (champion of the Faith), he answered, "I will not speak of what I have done; but when I tell you that even our schoolboys killed their five or six Bulgarians, what can you imagine that I did?"

He praised the Circassians as having done great things, having as their motto, "Giaur eulsun, vurunuz eulsun" ("Let the Giaour die—strike him, let him perish").

A Bimbashy (Major) present asked him if they had taken rifles from those that were killed. He replied, "That they had not even a hoe with them, much less rifles."

The Bimbashy then said that they must have killed innocent people. He replied, "Yes, very few had arms."

Another present remarked that 5,000 or 6,000 must have perished innocently. He answered, "If you had said 25,000 or 26,000 you would have been more correct." He added, "It is a great loss to the country, as most of them were tax-paying people."

He also said that at Plevna no Christian could go to his field or vineyard for fear of being robbed or maltreated; and that the people of Nicopoli and Shumla are preparing letters of thanks to their Kaïmacams for not having armed the Circassians in their districts.

Rustchuk, June 2, 1876 (*old style*).

No. 501.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 28, 1876.

ON the 26th instant the Duke of Argyll asked me in the House of Lords whether Her Majesty's Government had received from your Excellency any confirmation of the statement which appeared in the "Daily News" of the 23rd instant, and which gave an account of alleged atrocities upon Christians committed partly by Bashi-Bazouks and partly by Turkish regular troops in Bulgaria.

I inclose a copy of the statement to which the Duke of Argyll referred, and I have to request your Excellency to inquire and to furnish me with such information as you can obtain with regard to truth of that statement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY

Inclosure in No. 501.

Extract from the "Daily News" of June 23, 1876.

THE ASSASSINATIONS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—MOSLEM ATROCITIES IN BULGARIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 16, 1876.

DARK rumours have been whispered about Constantinople during the last month of horrible atrocities committed in Bulgaria. The local newspapers have given mysterious hints about correspondence from the interior which they have been obliged to suppress. I have hitherto refrained from mentioning these rumours, or from stating what I have heard, but they are now gradually assuming definiteness and consistency, and cruelties are being revealed which place those committed in Herzegovina and Bosnia altogether in the background. These cruelties have not been altogether (though they have in the main) confined to the side of the Turks; but that which throws the balance altogether against the latter is that the Government has been either unable or unwilling to prevent its own employés—I am unwilling to use the word soldiers, for the Bashi-Bazouks, by whom they have been committed, are altogether unworthy of the name—from committing these cruelties. While the attention of the European Powers has been occupied with Herzegovina, the Berlin Memorandum, and the deposition of Abdul Aziz, not merely have they allowed a great crime to be committed, but a great political blunder. It is a blunder, because Bulgaria has always been the province most under Russian influence. Its inhabitants are more connected by sympathy with the people of South Russia than those of any other province, and the cruelties there committed cannot fail, when they become known—as they probably are by this time in the dominions of the Czar—to arouse the indignation of the people to an extent which even the Emperor may have difficulty in controlling. The cruelties are, from all that I can learn, still continuing, and anyone who wants to comprehend the Eastern question must take into account the effect which they are likely to have upon a neighbouring and kindred people, when this people learns that their neighbours, whose only fault is that they are Christians, are being indiscriminately slaughtered.

When the insurrection broke out, regular soldiers were at first sent to put it down. Turkish soldiers are always a rough, undisciplined lot, but they had to deal with men who were not very much better, and who were in rebellion. Leaving out of consideration the provocation and justification which the insurgents had for rebellion, the systematic oppression of years, the numerous cases of individual cruelties and hardships, the long imprisonment in the foul dungeons, which, out of the capital, serve as prisons of men unconvicted and untried, but suspected, it may be admitted that in any country a rebel takes his life in his hands, and has no great reason to complain if, when he fails, he has to pay the penalty of death. Mercy towards belligerents was never expected, and has certainly never been shown in Turkish warfare. But the atrocities complained of are not the work of soldiers, but of Bashi-Bazouks. It will be remembered that in the Crimean war the reputation of more than one Indian officer was destroyed, because it was found impossible by men even with Indian experience to keep order among these irregular troops. Military organization or discipline they can scarcely be said to have. Composed of the dregs of the Turkish and Circassian population, with gipsies and gaol birds let out for the purpose, and under no responsible command, they have been let loose upon a large portion of central Bulgaria to put down the insurrection in their own fashion. The result is what everybody acquainted with the materials composing such a force might expect—the plundering of all moveable property, the burning of the houses and villages of the peasantry, without the slightest regard to the question whether the occupants have taken part in the insurrection or not, and the almost indiscriminate slaughter of old men, women, and children. One of the most fertile and productive provinces of the Turkish Empire is thus being laid waste. It is estimated by those who know the country well that the district, which has yielded to the Government an annual revenue of about 800,000*l.*, will not be able this year, nor for years to come, to produce a quarter of this sum. It is too soon yet to attempt to ascertain, with any degree of exactness, the number who have been killed. An intelligent Turk who has just arrived, estimates it at 18,000. Bulgarians speak of 30,000, and of the destruction of upwards of 100 villages. I pass over the stories of the burning of forty or fifty Bulgarian girls in a stable, and the massacre of upwards of 100 children in the village school-house, surprised by the Bashis, because though they are repeated everywhere in Constantinople, I have no sufficient authority to enable me to express an opinion on their truth. The places where these atrocities are said and generally believed to have occurred have been utterly destroyed, and possibly also the evidence of the cruelties which preceded their destruction. I have, however, trustworthy information of a number of other outrages, many of which are altogether unfit for publication. An intelligent Pole, who has just succeeded in making his way through Bulgaria to Constantinople under the care of a guard of twelve Bashi-Bazouks, declares—though, as a political refugee, he hates Russia as much as a man can do—that the Cossacks are models of good behaviour and of discipline, in comparison with his guards and the company to which they belonged. On his way down they slashed at every Bulgarian whom they met. Even the Turkish boys under the protection of these Bashi-Bazouks were heard boasting how many infidels they had killed.

The difficulty of obtaining accurate statistics will be appreciated when it is remembered that, immediately upon the outbreak of the troubles in Bulgaria the mails were placed under the strictest supervision. All letters coming from the district were opened at the Turkish Post-office, and those containing objectionable information were suppressed. The local journals were forbidden to publish any correspondence from those districts. Restrictions were placed upon travel. The necessary passport to the capital or elsewhere could only be obtained by business men on showing precisely what was the nature of their business. The men who have got through are, as a rule, unwilling to give any particulars whatever as to the insurrection, suspecting a spy on every hand. Now, however, that news is coming in daily through other countries, these men are beginning to do more than drop mysterious hints, and more accurate information becomes possible.

I have made out the following partial list of names of villages which have been thus destroyed. Where I have been able to obtain accurate information as to the number of houses in those villages I have given the figures. District of Philippopolis, judicial sub-district (Nahia) of Koyun Tepe—the villages Leshnik, Uzun Geren, Krastovo, Saryabol Nasva-Koyu, Yurundjili, Aïvadjik, Pastusha, Saradja, Perushtitza, Yontchular, Ereli, Stavonovo-Selo. In the judicial sub-district of Gionsa—the villages Sindjirli and Klisura. In the judicial sub-district Ruptchos—the villages Diedovo, Boïkovo, Zhdrebitchka, Yasakur. In the district of Pazardjik—the villages Dimkata, 75 houses; Isernovo, 70; Shallar, 65; Kalugerovo, 300; Lesitchovo, 65; Kalatchlar, 60; Djumaya, 50; Popintzi, 100; Butya, 45; Banya, 60; Vietren, 400; Batak, 600; Radilovo, 100; Alikotchovo, 60; Kozarsko, 70; Petritch, 60; Ichanakdjievo, 60; Eshikli, 70. These thirty-seven

names will suffice to give an idea of the horrible work which is going on. As to the number of women and children who have been massacred, one can only judge from the number of refugees, which is comparatively very small. One thing is very significant, not a girl ever ten years of age is to be found among those who have escaped. In one of the above-named towns, Perushtitza, 1,500 persons, mostly women and children, are known to have been killed.

A letter from Philippopoli gives full particulars of the destruction of this last-mentioned village. It contained 400 houses, and its wealth and prosperity have probably more than anything else brought about its ruin. Its inhabitants were all Bulgarians. Most of the villages round about were Turkish, and, as is usually the case in Turkey, the Christian village showed signs of prosperity which were altogether wanting in its neighbours, and which excited the jealousy of the latter. The Bulgarians were far outnumbered by their Turkish neighbours, and were anxious for peace. On the 6th of May the chief men of the village applied to the Government at Philippopoli for aid. Their Moslem neighbours were threatening them. Neighbouring villages had been attacked. All the Christians had been disarmed. Those who resisted had been burned. Next day the Government sent two policemen to the village, who were then to go beyond to another village. Two days later more men were sent from the village to declare to the Government that an attack was imminent. The Government simply took no notice whatever of the announcement. The Bashi-Bazouks of the Moslem village of Justina—that is to say, all the lowest roughs of the place—armed by Government, with full permission to kill, violate, and rob, determined to destroy Perushtitza unless its inhabitants would consent to surrender all the arms and ten of the leading families as hostages. Hard as these terms were, the inhabitants offered at once to accept them, with the exception that they proposed to deliver their arms not to the Moslem villagers of Justina, but to the Government. The Bashi-Bazouks appear to have become afraid that the wealthy village was, by accepting the proposed terms, going to escape from them; and, therefore, as soon as the submission had been received, they marched in a body towards the doomed Christian village. No charge of disloyalty, still less any charge of open rebellion, had been brought against it. Its one offence was that it was Christian, and, in consequence, as compared with a Turkish village, rich. For this reason alone the armed Moslem rabble were let loose against it and its unoffending inhabitants. The village was surrounded and the inhabitants fired upon. Of course, the latter, surprised though they were, defended themselves, remaining, however, in their houses. A portion of the Christians even now consented to give up their arms, on being assured that they would not be injured, and a body of them unarmed, with women and children, and headed by two priests, went out to make submission. The two priests advanced to kiss the hem of the Turkish Chief's robe, and one was killed on the spot for his submission; the other was wounded in the head, but managed to escape. The unarmed inhabitants were attacked. Some of them fled, others took refuge in the two churches of the village. On the 11th of May Raschid Pasha arrived with a body of troops. He ordered the Christians to surrender their arms. They naturally requested to be allowed to retain them until the Bashi-Bazouks had withdrawn, fearing the fate of those who, having disarmed themselves, had submitted, and had found how utterly untrustworthy are the promises of a Turk. Raschid at once took the part of the Turks and ordered the villagers to give up their arms. He thereupon made an attack upon the church, and old men, women, and children, were indiscriminately slaughtered. Every house in the village was burnt, and on the 14th of May not a house existed. A certain number of the women and children escaped, and are now refugees in Philippopoli, but a number of women were carried off as legitimate prizes by the Bashi-Bazouks.

These cruelties have made a great impression in the capital. I believe it is no secret that our Ambassador has brought his influence to bear upon the Government with a view to putting an end to them; but I venture to say that nothing but the most positive orders to the Turkish Government will be sufficient to effect this object. The Government which has to be dealt with is apparently unaware that such proceedings as it is adopting will be discountenanced abroad. Even now it is openly asserted by the Turks that England has determined to help the Government to put down the various insurrections. England, says a Turkish journal, will defend us against Russia while we look after our rebels. Our duty is, it seems to me, clear, either non-intervention in its fullest sense, allowing the Turks and Christians to fight out the issue between them, and not giving support to Turkey, as we are now doing in various ways indicated in my last letter, or if our interest requires us to give a certain support, then to exact as the first condition that the Christians shall be treated on an equality with the Turks. The thing, however, now to be done is to put a stop without delay to the massacre. England cannot afford to allow Russia to take credit for being the single friend of the Christian populations in this

country, and our own interests, no less than the duty to an oppressed people and to humanity, require that no time should be lost before it becomes known to the Turks and the various Christian communities that the Western nations will not tolerate any more of these barbarities.

P.S.—This morning great excitement was caused by the announcement of the murder of Hussein Avni, the Minister of War, and four other persons. I have telegraphed to you all the particulars known, and there is no time for comment. The official papers ascribe the murder to revenge, and not to any political object, but the general impression is that the murders were perpetrated on account of the hostility of Hussein Avni to the liberal reforms desired by the Young Turkey party.

No. 502.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 28, 1876.

HIS Excellency Count Schouvaloff called at the Foreign Office to-day to speak to me respecting the despatch which he had communicated to me from Prince Gortchakow, and I said that he should have a written answer in a day or two.

A long conversation followed on the subjects treated of in that despatch. I pointed out that Prince Gortchakow had made three proposals:—

1. As to Montenegro.
2. As to Servia, and—
3. As to the institutions to be given to the provinces in revolt.

With regard to Montenegro, I said that Her Majesty's Government had to a considerable extent anticipated the action recommended by Prince Gortchakow; they had found other Governments, and especially the Austrian, disposed to advise that an attempt should be made to reconcile Montenegro with the Porte, and believing that there was a reasonable prospect of success, they had counselled the Porte through Sir H. Elliot and Musurus Pasha to endeavour to detach the Prince of Montenegro from the insurgents and to hold out to the Prince a prospect that, if he were to assist in the pacification of the insurgent provinces, his good offices would be borne in mind in a future delimitation of frontier.

As a consequence of this step Her Majesty's Government had ascertained that a conciliatory message had been sent by the Porte to the Prince of Montenegro; Her Majesty's Government were not in a position to say whether any or what results would ensue, but it was evident that there was nothing more to be done at present, and so far as Montenegro was concerned, the views of the two Governments were in accordance.

As to Servia, I said it appeared to me that the situation and position of affairs had greatly changed since Prince Gortchakow's despatch was written. Reports all pointed to the probability of war being declared by Servia; whether this was to happen or not, unquestionably the attitude of Servia towards the Porte was one of menaces and almost of open hostility. His Government must feel as we did that, in such a state of things it was impossible for the Porte to make a spontaneous offer of cession of territory, however small; such a step could not fail to be regarded as evidence of weakness rather than of friendly feeling or simple desire for peace.

Count Schouvaloff did not dissent from this expression of opinion on my part, but said he was doubtful as to the reality of the warlike intentions ascribed to Servia, and that in any case he saw no reason why hopes should not be held out to the Prince of such a concession at a later date.

I said that if, notwithstanding all that had passed, the Prince of Servia were at the last moment to change his attitude, to withdraw from all appearance of menace, and gradually to disarm, I would not say but that, in such a case, he might not be held to have acquired a moral claim on the Porte and the Powers for some acknowledgment of so desirable a change of policy. It was impossible to speak at present definitively on the subject, and in any case it must be understood that no more than Little Zvornik could be asked. This concession, while it might serve to gratify Servian feeling, would appear to involve no substantial loss or injury to the Porte. Nothing could, however, be said until the Prince had given clear proof of having abandoned the warlike projects ascribed to him.

We then passed to the third subject under discussion, viz., the question of granting administrative autonomy, or local self-government in some form, to Bosnia

and Herzegovina. Much discussion followed on this point. I informed Count Schouvaloff of the objection which I understood to be entertained by the Austrian Government to any such proposal, and of the reasons on which they were based. I added that, so far as the interests of European policy were concerned, I should see no objection to a change which would give to Bosnia and Herzegovina a large measure of real freedom, but that I doubted whether any concession of the kind would satisfy the insurgents now in arms. I was not prepared to put forward a plan for the government of these provinces without at least knowing what the opinion of the Porte would be in regard to it. I could not but feel that the difference of religion and the natural animosities existing between the two sections of the population placed a serious obstacle in the way of the working of free institutions; and, finally, I pointed out to him the extreme inconvenience which might arise from the use of vague and general terms, such as that of "local autonomy," which each party, using them in conversation, was apt to construe in a different sense, and which, therefore, led to mutual misunderstandings when details came to be discussed. On the other hand, I was certainly not prepared to draw up a constitution in detail for the Turkish provinces, and on the whole, therefore, I thought it premature to say more than that Her Majesty's Government would gladly concur in any practicable proposal for the amelioration of the local government of these provinces.

Count Schouvaloff, in reply, urged the importance of strengthening the hands of the Prince of Montenegro if he was to be usefully employed in endeavouring to dissuade the insurgents from continuing the war. I said that if the Prince of Montenegro could only be induced to stand aloof and take no part in the quarrel, and prevent his subjects from engaging in it, that was all that was required from him, and further co-operation with Turkey on his part was unnecessary.

Reverting to the subject of Servia, I said that I did not believe that any considerations of general policy would now be effectual to prevent Prince Milan from declaring war. What was urgent was to impress on him the imminent risk which he incurred of defeat, and the disastrous consequences which might ensue to himself and his country. Without pretending to measure the strength of the respective forces, I did not believe that Servia was prepared in regard either of men or money to enter into a campaign against the power of Turkey. I mentioned further to Count Schouvaloff the belief generally entertained that Prince Milan intended to ask for the Governorship of Bosnia, a request which he must know would be refused, and which could only therefore be meant as a pretext for war.

Count Schouvaloff assured me he had never heard of any such intention on the part of the Prince.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 503.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 29.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, June 21, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of a Supplementary Proclamation respecting the reforms in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, issued in the Turkish and Slav languages at Mostar by Ali Pasha on the $\frac{2nd}{14th}$ instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 503.

Supplementary Proclamation, dated Mostar, June $\frac{2}{14}$, 1876.

(Translation.)

BY a Special Proclamation the amnesty granted to the insurgents of Bosnia and the Herzegovina by His Majesty the Sultan Mourad V, our august Sovereign, has been promulgated.

If in this Decree no formal mention has been made of the reforms accorded to the

inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, the reason is that the Imperial Government had already transmitted their orders and their instructions to the Commissaries and to the Presidents of the Reform Councils, for their immediate application.

Orders have been given by a Vizierial telegram to the authorities of Bosnia and the Herzegovina to execute in their entirety and with efficacity all these reforms; and so that all demands founded in equity be favourably received when presented by any Delegates whom the claimants may designate.

(Signed) ALI.

Mostar, June $\frac{2}{14}$, 1876.

No. 504.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 29.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, June* 21, 1876.

MOUKHTAR PASHA has reached Nichsich without opposition on the part of the insurgents, and has passed in the convoy of provisions, said to consist of 1,800 horse-loads. It is officially stated, however, that another victualling expedition will be necessary.

General Jovanovics observed to me this morning that, in his opinion, all Moukhtar Pasha's operations were conducted with great skill. He particularly approved of the Marshal's keeping his forces together, considering that a general distribution of them over the Herzegovina would expose them to be perpetually attacked in detail by the insurgents.

Two large frigates passed Gravosa yesterday, making for the southward. None of the signal-stations could distinguish their colours They were at first supposed to be part of the Austrian squadron under orders for the Levant, but the Town-Major informed me this morning that from subsequent reports there was reason to believe that they were Turkish vessels, which in company with a transport and an "aviso" had been landing troops at Klek.

I understand that one of these vessels was unprovided with the proper papers, certifying that the troops on board did not come from plague-infested districts, and that some difficulty had therefore arisen between the Turkish and the Austrian local authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 505.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 29, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government approve your having spoken to Raschid Pasha, as reported in your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, on the subject of Count Andrassy's note that the Sultan's recent proclamation to the insurgents in Bosnia would be followed by a declaration that the Porte will abide by its previous engagements with regard to them, and they have learnt with satisfaction that orders in that sense have been sent to the Turkish authorities in the insurgent provinces.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 506.

The Earl of Derby to Count Schouvaloff.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, June* 29, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government have given their most careful consideration to the despatch from Prince Gortchakow, the contents of which your Excellency was so good as to communicate to me on the 21st instant. They have seen with satisfaction the proofs afforded by this communication of the desire of the Russian Government to act in concert

with them, and to enter into friendly and frank explanations upon the questions to which the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina has given rise.

Her Majesty's Government are most willing to enter into the exchange of sentiments which His Highness invites, and they cordially share his anxiety that there should be a complete agreement among all the Powers as to the policy to be pursued in the present state of affairs in Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government are as much alive as that of Russia can be to the importance of securing the religious and other liberties of the Christian population of the Ottoman Empire, nor have they failed on all fitting occasions to counsel the Porte to give entire execution to the various measures which have been proclaimed by the Sultan with this object. They have taken the earliest opportunity on the accession of Sultan Mourad to instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to speak in this sense, and they have especially pressed for the effectual realization, at as early a date as circumstances allow, of the reforms promised to the insurgent provinces.

Her Majesty's Government cannot, however, regard the insurrection in Bosnia and the Herzegovina as being exclusively or principally a struggle directed against local oppression, whether in religious or civil matters. The reports which they have received show that it arose from other causes, and is now fomented and maintained for purposes which are obviously of a general and political rather than of a local and administrative character. In support of this view, I may mention the fact that the Roman Catholic population have not taken part in the movement, and that those Christians who have not joined the insurgent bands have continued throughout the recent troubles to live unmolested.

It also appears that numbers of those who had quitted their villages at the outbreak of the insurrection are ready and willing to return to them, and are deterred from doing so, not by fears of their Mahomedan neighbours, but by the action of the insurgents, who drive away the cattle and destroy the goods of the returning refugees.

It is obvious that, while this state of things is allowed to continue, the efforts of the Powers in recommending schemes for the better administration of these districts must be fruitless. It was in this conviction that I have stated to your Excellency my opinion that the insurrectionary movement must be suppressed, and order restored, before any such schemes can be advantageously treated.

Her Majesty's Government agree with that of Russia that the best remedies are those which would afford a practical solution of the difficulties to be dealt with, without altering the political and territorial *status quo* of the Ottoman Empire. They do not, however, clearly understand what is the particular plan which the Russian Government have in view. Nor do they think it easy, under any circumstances, for a foreign Government to frame a scheme of administration for a Turkish Province. There are local peculiarities, tendencies, and customs, which must be taken into account, and which only local knowledge can provide for. It is for this reason, among others, that Her Majesty's Government see so much objection to pressing on the Porte at the present moment, and without close and careful inquiry, projects of reform going beyond those already promised. Such projects, if embodied in vague and general terms, are apt to be differently understood by the various parties concerned in promoting them, while the task of working them out in detail is one for which foreign advisers, however able or well-intentioned, can hardly be competent.

Her Majesty's Government will, at the same time, willingly join with those of other Powers in considering and advising such ameliorations in the existing administration of the two Provinces as, on full examination, they may believe to be practicable; and they see with pleasure that Prince Gortchakow expresses his conviction, in which they fully share, of the good intentions which animate the present Sultan.

His Highness, however, thinks it improbable that the Turkish Government could be willing to make any further concessions if the insurrection were once subdued, and seems to have misinterpreted some remark of mine as expressing an opinion that, in that case, the action of Europe might be necessary to prevent the extermination of the Christians. I am not aware of having used any such phrase, and must therefore explain that Her Majesty's Government have no reason to anticipate that the suppression of the insurrection would be followed by the extermination or persecution of the Christian races. There are no signs of any such intention on the part either of the Porte or the Mahometan population, and Her Majesty's Government do not believe that any apprehension of the kind need be entertained.

I pass to Prince Gortchakow's further suggestion, that the Sultan should cede to Montenegro a port and some adjacent territory, and that, at the same time, Little Zvornik

should be handed over to Servia, with the view of offering to those States an inducement to maintain peaceable relations with the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government would readily co-operate in endeavouring to establish more satisfactory relations between Montenegro, Servia, and the Porte.

They have already used their best efforts in this respect with regard to Montenegro, and have learned by telegraph, on the 27th instant, from Sir Henry Elliot, that the Turkish Government have taken a step in this direction. A message has been sent from Constantinople to the Prince of Montenegro, stating that the Sultan has seen, in the absence of opposition to the expedition of the Turkish Commander-in-chief, evidence that the Prince has been exercising a salutary influence, and adding that His Majesty will take this fact into consideration at the proper time This message, however vague in terms, cannot but be regarded as evidence of an inclination to come to a friendly understanding; and it is for the Prince of Montenegro to consider whether he will not be ready to meet half-way the overtures thus made.

The menacing attitude assumed by Servia, notwithstanding the recent counsels of the Powers, renders it manifestly inopportune to urge upon the Porte, under present circumstances, the adoption of a similar course towards that Principality.

The Sultan cannot be expected to forget the concessions made to Servia under the Protocol of the 4th September, 1862, and the evacuation of the fortress of Belgrade and other Servian fortresses under the Firman of the 10th April, 1867. It was with the object of securing friendly relations with Servia that these large concessions were agreed to by the Porte, and the result of the policy thus adopted does not seem encouraging for the future.

The despatch of Prince Gortchakow was written before the attitude of Servia had become so decided, and Her Majesty's Government do not doubt that His Highness will concur with them in the view which they take of the present situation.

It may possibly not yet be too late for the Powers, and especially for the Russian Government, whose influence at Belgrade is so apparent, to make a further effort to induce Prince Milan to abandon his policy of aggression. It is desirable that the Servian Government should be warned that if they attempt to secure territorial aggrandisement under the pretext of Slavonic sympathies, they must not expect to be protected from the consequences of failure and defeat.

Her Majesty's Government are convinced that if this were done in a tone which did not admit of misconstruction, and the Turkish insurgent provinces were freed from the instigations to revolution of the foreign Slav Committees and agitators, the work of pacification would be so greatly advanced as to render the completion of it an easy task.

Her Majesty's Government have expressed themselves thus explicitly in order to meet the wishes of that of Russia for a full statement of their opinions. They observe with pleasure that, in many respects, the two Governments are agreed, and they trust that the effect of frank and unreserved discussion may be to bring about a still closer approximation of their respective views.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 507.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 13, 1876.*

MR. KIRBY GREEN having telegraphed from Scutari that the Turkish military authorities had received orders to pursue across the frontiers of Servia and Montenegro any armed bands found upon Turkish territory, I have inquired from Raschid Pasha as to the truth of the report.

His Excellency stated that, on the contrary, stringent orders had been given to respect the territories of the Principalities, unless the Imperial troops should be attacked by a regular force coming from them. It is only in the case of an organized invasion that the troops are authorized to pursue the invaders across the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 508.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 15, 1876

I LEARN that the substance of the telegram from the Prince of Montenegro to the Grand Vizier, in answer to the inquiries of the Porte as to the cause of his armaments, was to the following effect:—

Sufficient consideration has not been given to the trial to which the people, as well as the Government of Montenegro, have been exposed by the insurrection in the Turkish provinces ever since its outbreak, in addition to the expense imposed upon them by the maintenance of their neutrality, and to the losses which they have necessarily incurred in supporting the sick and wounded, the women and children, who claim from them a shelter which they cannot refuse. The Government of Montenegro, says the Prince, are continually the object of unfounded accusations, and although their repeated denials of any connection with the insurrection have been accepted with perfect civility, they daily receive proof of the suspicion in which they are held. The measures taken with regard to Montenegro, in consequence of this persistent suspicion have lately assumed a threatening aspect; the frontiers have, without previous notification, been put into a state of blockade; Turkish troops in greater numbers than is necessary for the preservation of order have been massed in Herzegovina and Albania; and although the Prince received from the Porte satisfactory assurances that these measures should be withdrawn, the concentration of troops continues, and causes great distress in some districts of Montenegro.

The frontier is still very effectively blockaded, notwithstanding the declarations of the Governor-General of Scutari to the contrary.

In consequence of these facts and of the regrettable disposition which they seem to reveal, His Highness declares that he was only doing his duty in openly taking precautionary measures, which, however, he sincerely hopes will prove to be unnecessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 509.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 17, 1876.

I CALLED upon the Grand Vizier this morning, to congratulate him on his escape from the attack under which two of his colleagues had lost their lives.

The account which he gave me of the occurrence agreed closely with the telegraphic report which I forwarded to your Lordship yesterday, except that it exhibited in a still stronger light the extraordinary ferocity and resolution displayed by the assassin.

That one man should have penetrated into a Council of Ministers, and killed seven persons and wounded eight others before he could be secured, is an act for which scarcely a parallel could be found.

Everything appears to prove that the intention of the assassin was to kill the Minister of War, and then to fight his way out and effect his escape, for which he had prepared the means by having a horse at hand to take him to the landing-place where he had left a boat.

Finding, upon going to the Seraskier's house, that his Highness had gone to the Council, as he was himself to be sent to join his corps at Bagdad the next day, his only chance of being able to carry out his design was by endeavouring to force an entrance there.

The unfortunate Raschid Pasha was present at the Council by what may be called an accident or a fatality; for the Ministers invited to attend this night Council had been confined to those whose country houses were in the neighbourhood, while his was at some distance.

Hearing, however, that the Grand Vizier proposed to hold a Council, and a part of his family being still in town, he determined to remain after office hours, for the purpose of attending it; and by another fatality he took the seat immediately next to the Seraskier Pasha.

The Grand Vizier cannot say for certain whether he was shot immediately after his colleague, or whether it was after the Minister of Marine, who displayed remarkable courage and energy for so old a man, had seized the assassin from behind round the waist and prevented his escape; for from that moment there was a scene of indescribable confusion.

The Ministers, under the impression that they were attacked by a band of conspirators, were escaping to the adjoining apartments, while the murderer, in a state of frenzy,—and, as is thought, partial intoxication.—was using both the four revolvers with which he was armed, and his sword or yatagan, upon all who were within his reach.

The Minister of Marine only received severe but not dangerous flesh-wounds from his dagger, but an Aide-de-camp and an attendant who went to his assistance were shot dead.

When the soldiers arrived from a neighbouring guard-house they broke open the door of the room in which he had locked himself, and to which he had set fire, but before they could run him through with their bayonets, he had killed and wounded several of their number.

Being held unworthy of the death of a soldier he was degraded and hanged early this morning in an open space near the Seraskeriat.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 510.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 30.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, June 17, 1876.*

THE murder of the two Ministers produced at first an intense uneasiness and apprehension among all classes, for it could not be believed to be the act of a solitary assassin, animated with personal motives, and it was supposed that there must be a great political conspiracy likely to bring the country into a state of anarchy.

If that had occurred the presence of ships of war at Constantinople might have become necessary for the protection of the foreign subjects.

Some of my colleagues showed so much apprehension that I was not without fear that they might suggest such a step to their Governments before the circumstances were such as to warrant a measure that ought not to be contemplated except on an extreme emergency.

I inclose the copy of a telegram that I sent to Admiral Drummond to inform him of the state of things, saying that it was possible a state of anarchy might occur, which would necessitate the ships coming up.

There proved to be no necessity for any measure of precaution whatever, and that the alarm was needless, but public confidence received a shake, from which I do not expect it very quickly entirely to recover.

Inclosure in No. 510.

Sir H. Elliot to Admiral Drummond.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June 16, 1876.*

THE Minister of War and the Minister for Foreign Affairs were killed, and the Minister of Marine wounded, while in council last night at Midhat Pasha's house.

The assassin was arrested, and his motives are not yet known, but he is understood to be an officer lately degraded, and it is believed that he was revenging himself on the Minister of War.

If anarchy should take place, the presence of foreign ships of war at Constantinople may, perhaps, become necessary for the protection of their subjects.

No. 511.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 18, 1876.*

IN my conversation with the Grand Vizier yesterday, I told him that if he hoped to secure the sympathies of the Western Powers he must lose no time in convincing them that there had not been a mere change of Sovereigns in Turkey, but that the Porte was resolved to carry out a complete modification of the system of government upon the principle of perfect equality of all the Sultan's subjects.

He assured me that he and his colleagues had already gone far towards the elaboration of a system which he was convinced would satisfy Her Majesty's Government.

Momentous changes were not, however, to be decided upon or carried out in a day, and he earnestly trusted that the Governments, which he regarded as friendly to this Empire, would give the Porte time to make known the measures which it proposed to adopt without embarrassing it with proposals or demands in reference to the insurgent Provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 512.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 19, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch of the 9th instant, inclosing the Queen's letter accrediting me as Her Ambassador to His Imperial Majesty Sultan Murad V.

I this afternoon presented a note to Safvet Pasha requesting him to obtain for me the honour of an audience of the Sultan, that I might place Her Majesty's letter in his hands, but owing to the indisposition from which His Majesty is suffering, I think it probable that some days must elapse before he is able to grant me an audience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 513.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 30.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, June 19, 1876.*

YOUR Lordship has received Mr. Consul Reade's report of the cruelties with which the suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection has been accompanied; and the accounts from other quarters are still more distressing, although no doubt many of the revolting details that are given are either purely imaginary, or at least grossly exaggerated.

I have again spoken very seriously to the Grand Vizier on the subject, and remarked that the manner in which his colleagues had just been murdered by a Circassian gave an idea of what must be the position of unarmed populations left absolutely at the mercy of hordes of those savages.

The Grand Vizier, after alluding to the exaggeration of the reports sent here and to the omisssion of all mention of the horrors practised upon the Mussulmans by those who had attempted to get up the insurrection, by inflaming the two populations into a state of exasperation, assured me that it would be impossible to add to the stringency of the instructions which he has sent to put an end to the disorders, and to disarm the Circassians, the Imperial authorities being ordered to do this by force if they resisted.

Mehemet Ruchdi Pasha added that the emergency had been so great as to render it indispensable at once to stamp the movement out by any means that were immediately available.

It was found to have originated in a conspiracy combined abroad, and upon such

an extensive scale that, if not immediately suppressed, he believed that the insurrection would have quickly extended nearly to the gates of Constantinople.

The Government had resorted with repugnance to the services of the Circassians, but under the circumstances they had no choice.

Raschid Pasha having complained that the Russian Consul at Philippopoli, who is a native Bulgarian, was implicated in the conspiracy, General Ignatiew has ordered an inquiry to be made into his conduct.

No. 514.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received June* 30.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 20, 1876.

THE unanimity which prevailed among all classes of Mahommedans at the moment of the late Sultan's deposition has, as was to be expected, proved of short duration, and a strong reactionary current has set in against allowing the Christians that perfect equality in the new institutions to be established, which was the basis upon which the leaders of the movement proposed to build them.

When we recollect the passions which were aroused in our own country at no very distant date upon the question of the admission of Roman Catholics to political rights, we may rather feel surprised in a Mahommedan country that the principle of putting the long-despised Christian on an equal footing with the true believer should be so powerfully supported, than that it is resisted by the ignorant and fanatical.

Upon this question the Government are greatly in advance of the people, and it will be necessary for them to proceed with much caution.

The establishment of a constitutional control, in which the elective principle is, at least to a limited extent, admitted, has become indispensable to satisfy the public expectation and to prevent the administration from falling into the state in which it has of late been, and, judging from the language of the principal Ministers, this would appear to be resolved upon, but an attempt at once to endow this country with a constitution on any European model, or with a Chamber possessed of large attributions, could lead to nothing but confusion.

What is above all necessary is that it should be seen that something is absolutely given, and not merely promised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 515.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, June* 30.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 28 *Juin,* 1876.

VOUS savez que les armements qui se poursuivaient activement en Servie depuis le commencement de l'insurrection de l'Herzégovine, avaient pris dans ces derniers temps des proportions telles qu'il était devenu impossible à la Sublime Porte de rester indifférente devant un déploiement de forces si considérable et si en dehors de toute proportion.

En présence de cette situation anormale, et s'inspirant de ses dispositions bienveillantes pour la Principauté, le Gouvernement Impérial s'est adressé au Prince Milan pour lui demander des explications franches et précises sur les motifs et le but de ces préparatifs de guerre extraordinaires.

Les précédentes communications de mon Département vous ont fait connaître les télégrammes échangés à ce sujet entre son Altesse le Grand Vizir et le Prince de Servie.

Malgré les assurances données par le Prince, assurances qui ne s'accordent nullement avec les faits qui les démentent à chaque moment, les nouvelles les plus récentes ne nous permettent plus de douter que la Servie ne soit résolue à entrer prochainement en campagne.

Quoique le Gouvernement Impérial n'ait cessé de respecter scrupuleusement l'autonomie garantie à cette Principauté par le Traité de 1856, et qu'il ait évité avec soin de donner jusqu'ici au Gouvernement Servien le moindre motif légitime de

mécontentement de nature à l'amener dans la nécessité de se révolter contre la Cour Suzeraine, la Sublime Porte ne s'en voit pas moins menacée par la Servie d'une agression que rien n'a provoqué et que rien ne justifie.

Tout le monde connaît les efforts faits par la Principauté et les moyens illégaux qu'elle n'a cessé d'employer pour fomenter d'abord, et soutenir ensuite, la malheureuse insurrection de l'Herzégovine. On connaît également toute la longanimité dont la Sublime Porte a usé vis-à-vis de ces agissements incessants. Bien qu'en droit de répondre par des actes aux provocations du Gouvernement Servien, nous avons poussé le désir de la conciliation jusqu'à éviter même de lui faire des remontrances pour le rappeler à l'observation de ses devoirs. Nous aimons pourtant à espérer que cette attitude calme et pleine de sollicitude du Gouvernement Impérial envers le peuple Servien, égaré par des ambitieux et des hommes remuants, sera dûment appréciée, et que les conseils de modération finiront par prévaloir à Belgrade.

Mais si cet espoir était déçu et si une invasion armée était tentée contre le territoire Ottoman, le Gouvernement du Sultan, fort de son bon droit, ne reculerait pas devant l'emploi de la force pour repousser une attaque si injuste, et se croirait dès lors pleinement autorisé à prendre les mesures dictées par les circonstances. Nos troupes entreront, s'il y a lieu, dans la Principauté afin de la faire rentrer dans les justes limites de sa véritable position.

Ce droit de légitime défense appartiendrait au Gouvernement Impérial même vis-à-vis d'une Puissance indépendante; il peut à plus forte raison le revendiquer à l'encontre d'un Etat qui, abusant de la situation privilégiée que lui font les Traités, se porte à des actes d'hostilité contre lui sans y être aucunement provoqué.

Veuillez communiquer ce qui précède au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 28, 1876.

YOU know that the armaments which have been in active preparation in Servia since the beginning of the Herzegovinian insurrection have lately assumed such proportions that it has become impossible for the Sublime Porte to remain indifferent in face of a display of force so considerable and so out of all proportion.

In presence of this abnormal situation, and inspired with kindly feelings towards the Principality, the Imperial Government applied to Prince Milan for frank and precise explanations on the motives and object of these extraordinary war preparations.

Preceding communications from my Department have informed you of the telegrams exchanged on this subject between His Highness the Grand Vizier and the Prince of Servia.

Notwithstanding the assurances given by the Prince, assurances which in no way agree with the facts which continually belie them, our most recent information will no longer allow us to doubt that Servia has determined to open the campaign immediately.

Although the Imperial Government has not ceased to respect scrupulously the autonomy guaranteed to this Principality by the Treaty of 1856, and has carefully avoided hitherto to give to the Servian Government the least legitimate motive for discontent of such a character as to put it under the necessity of revolting against the Sovereign Court, the Sublime Porte does not the less see herself menaced by Servia by an attack that nothing has provoked, and that nothing justifies.

Everybody knows the efforts made by the Principality, and the illegal means that it has not ceased to employ, first to stir up and then to foster the unhappy insurrection in the Herzegovina. The patience which the Sublime Porte has shown with respect to these incessant agitations is equally well known. Although having a perfect right to reply by actions to the provocations of the Servian Government, we have gone so far in our wish for conciliation as even to avoid remonstrating with it, with a view to call its duties to its attention. We are happy, however, to hope that this calm and solicitous attitude of the Imperial Government towards the Servian people—misled by ambitious and turbulent men—will be duly appreciated, and that counsels of moderation will end by prevailing at Belgrade.

But if this hope were falsified, and an armed invasion of the Ottoman Empire attempted, the Government of the Sultan, strong in its right, would not recoil from employing force to repel so unjust an attack, and would thenceforward consider itself fully authorized to take whatever measures circumstances might dictate. Our

troops will enter the Principality if necessary, so as to force it to return to the true appreciation of its true position.

This right of legitimate defence would belong to the Imperial Government even as against an independent Power, they can with stronger reason lay claim to it in an encounter with a State which, abusing the privileged situation which Treaties give it, attacks them without being in any way provoked thereto.

Be good enough to communicate this to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government to which you are accredited.

No. 516.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, June 30.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Juin*, 1876.

JE vous transmets ci-dessous, pour votre information personnelle :—1. Un télégramme Véziriel adressé au Prince du Monténégro ; 2. La réponse du Prince Nicolas ; et 3. La réplique de son Altesse le Grand Vézir.

(No. 1.)

Le 11 Juin, 1876.

Votre Altesse sait que la Sublime Porte s'était préoccupée des armements qui se faisaient depuis quelque temps au Monténégro. Les assurances formelles et réitérées que votre Altesse avait bien voulu nous donner à ce sujet avaient fort heureusement dissipé nos inquiétudes. Aujourd'hui, cependant, je dois constater avec regret que ces préparatifs, loin d'avoir cessé, continuent au contraire dans des proportions telles que l'armée Monténégrine se trouve prête à entrer à toute heure en campagne. Votre Altesse comprendra facilement combien cet état de choses est de nature à préoccuper la Sublime Porte. Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, qui entoure de sa plus vive sollicitude le repos et la tranquillité des populations que la Providence a placées sous son sceptre paternel, a été justement ému de cette situation, et des intentions agressives qu'elle semble attribuer au Monténégro. D'ordre de mon auguste Maître, qui tient à cœur de voir se conserver invariables les bons rapports entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté, je m'adresse à votre Altesse pour la prier de nous donner des explications franches et précises sur les motifs et le but réel de ces armements.

(No. 2.)

"*Le 21 Juin*, 1876.

En réponse à la dépêche de votre Altesse, reçue hier, je viens lui donner les explications franches qu'elle désire.

L'insurrection des provinces Turques a été, dès l'origine, pour le Monténégro et pour son Gouvernement, la source d'épreuves dont on ne se rend pas assez compte. Outre les charges que lui impose le maintien de sa neutralité, et les sacrifices qu'il est forcé de faire pour les blessés, les infirmes, les femmes et les enfants qui viennent chercher chez lui un asile qu'il ne peut refuser, il se voit perpétuellement en butte à des accusations sans fondement. Quoique ses dénégations répétées de toute immixtion dans l'insurrection aient été accueillies avec la plus parfaite civilité, il acquiert chaque jour la preuve qu'il est tenu en suspicion. Les mesures dictées à son égard par ce soupçon persistant ont pris depuis quelque temps un caractère menaçant ; les frontières ont été, sans notification préalable, mis en état de blocus ; des forces Turques supérieures aux besoins de la répression se sont massées en Herzégovine et en Albanie. Sur les représentations que j'ai fait parvenir à la Sublime Porte, j'ai reçu de votre Altesse et de son prédécesseur des assurances satisfaisantes sur le retrait de ces mesures, mais j'ai le regret de constater que les concentrations continuent, et que, ce qui cause une vraie détresse dans quelques districts Monténégrins, mes frontières restent bloquées d'une façon très effective, malgré les déclarations contraires du Gouverneur-Général de Scutari. En présence de ces faits et de la tendance regrettable qu'ils semblent révéler, il est de mon devoir strict de prendre des mesures de précaution que je ne dissimule nullement, tout en ayant le vif désir et le ferme espoir qu'elles resteront inutiles.

(Signé) NICOLAS.

(No. 3.)

Le 25 Juin, 1876.

J'ai reçu le télégramme responsif que votre Altesse a bien voulu m'adresser ce 21 Juin. Nous n'avons jamais élevé des soupçons touchant le but vers lequel tendaient les efforts de votre Altesse. La continuation de la malheureuse insurrection Herzégovinienne prouve d'une manière évidente que nos forces militaires, que votre Altesse trouve supérieures aux besoins de la répression, n'étaient pas numériquement suffisantes pour cette tâche. Elle se serait pourtant accomplie, si l'action de nos troupes ne s'était trouvée entravée et arrêtée à tout moment par des obstacles et des circonstances particulières à la position du pays. Pour ce qui est d'une concentration de troupes dont parle votre Altesse, et qui irait s'accentuant chaque jour davantage, je n'aurai pas de peine à la rassurer entièrement à ce sujet. A part nos troupes en Herzégovine, dont le nombre varie suivant les exigences stratégiques, sur aucun point de la ligne de démarcation, il n'y a eu ni concentration ni modification des forces militaires. Je rappelerai même ici que, nonobstant la décision prise précédemment de réunir, par simple mesure de précaution, un corps d'armée de 20,000 hommes à Scutari d'Albanie, la Sublime Porte y a renoncé à la suite des assurances données par votre Altesse, les dernières informations reçues du vilayet de Scutari portant même que l'effectif des garnisons des fortins du côté de Monténégro n'a pas été augmenté d'un seul homme depuis huit mois. Je dirai enfin, mon Prince, que nos autorités n'ont jamais eu l'intention d'empêcher les communications de la Principauté avec le dehors. La preuve en est que ces communications continuent sans interruption; et que les Monténégrins vont en toute liberté, et sans être aucunement inquiétés, à Spouze, à Podgoritza et à Scutari. Par ce qui précède votre Altesse verra que la Sublime Porte n'a adopté aucune mesure qui doive préoccuper ni inquiéter le Monténégro. Nous sommes donc persuadés, mon Prince, que, malgré les insinuations tendantes à ébranler sa confiance dans les sentiments et les intentions bienveillantes de la Sublime Porte, votre Altesse continuera à contribuer pour sa part à l'œuvre de pacification poursuivie par le Gouvernement Impérial en Herzégovine. Nous en trouvons une preuve dans les nouvelles transmises par notre Commandant-en-chef en Herzégovine. En effet, Moukhtar Pacha nous annonce qu'il a ravitaillé Nichsich sans rencontrer dans sa marche aucune résistance de la part des insurgés, et que son retour à Gatchko a eu lieu également sans obstacle. La Sublime Porte aime à attribuer ce résultat aux dispositions prises par votre Altesse pour retenir les réfugiés qui se trouvent au Monténégro et les empêcher d'aller se joindre aux insurgés, de telle sorte que ces derniers, se voyant isolés, n'ont pas osé inquiéter le passage des convois de vivres et des troupes qui les accompagnaient. Ainsi votre Altesse peut-elle être assurée que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan apprécie dûment cette nouvelle preuve des sentiments loyaux de votre Altesse, et qu'il tiendra compte en temps et lieu de la ligne de conduite suivie par elle en cette circonstance.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, June* 29, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your personal information: 1, a telegram from the Grand Vizier to the Prince of Montenegro; 2, the answer of Prince Nicholas; and 3, the rejoinder of His Highness the Grand Vizier.

(No. 1.)

June 11, 1876.

Your Highness knows that the Sublime Porte was disquieted by the armaments which have been in course of preparation for some time in Montenegro. The formal and reiterated assurances which your Highness has been good enough to give us on this subject had happily dissipated these misgivings. Now, however, I am forced, with regret, to point out that these preparations, far from having ceased, continue, on the contrary, in such proportions that the Montenegrin army is ready to open the campaign at any hour. Your Highness will easily understand that this state of things is of a character to cause the Sublime Porte misgivings. His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, who watches with the liveliest solicitude over the repose and tranquillity of the populations which Providence has placed under his paternal sceptre, has been naturally much affected by this situation, and by the aggressive intentions which it would seem must be attributed to Montenegro. By the order of my august Master,

who has at heart the invariable preservation of good relations between the Sublime Porte and the Principality, I address myself to your Highness to beg you to give frank and precise explanations as to the motives and the real object of these armaments.

(No. 2.)

June 21, 1876.

In reply to the despatch of your Highness, received yesterday, I now give you the frank explanations that you desire.

The insurrection in the Turkish provinces has, from its commencement, been a source of trials for Montenegro and its Government, of which not sufficient account is taken. In addition to the charges which the maintenance of its neutrality imposes upon it, and the sacrifices which it is forced to make for the wounded, the infirm, the women and children who come to seek within its territory an asylum impossible to refuse, it finds itself constantly the object of unfounded accusations. Although its repeated denials of any implication in the insurrection have been received with the most perfect civility, it daily sees that it is held in suspicion. The measures dictated by this persistent suspicion have assumed lately a menacing character; the frontiers have been without due warning put in a state of blockade; Turkish forces far beyond the wants of repressing the insurrection have been massed in Herzegovina and Albania. In answer to the representations which I have addressed to the Sublime Porte, I have received from your Highness and from your predecessor satisfactory assurances as to the withdrawal of those measures; but I regret to say that the concentrations continue, and that my frontiers are still blockaded in a very efficient manner, notwithstanding the declarations of the Governor-General of Scutari, which causes real distress in some Montenegrin districts. In view of these facts, and the regrettable tendency which they indicate, it is my strict duty to take the precautionary measures which I do not at all disguise, although I have the earnest desire and the firm hope that they will prove unnecessary.

(Signed) NICOLAS.

(No. 3.)

June 25, 1876.

I have received the telegraphic reply which your Highness addressed me on the 1st June. We have never raised suspicions with regard to the object to which your Highness' efforts are directed. The continuance of the unhappy Herzegovinian insurrection proves in a self-evident manner that our military forces, which your Highness esteems as stronger than necessary for its repression, were not sufficient for that task. It would, notwithstanding, have been accomplished if the action of our troops had not been interrupted and checked at each step by obstacles and circumstances peculiar to the position of the country. As respects the concentration of troops of which your Highness speaks as increasing daily, I shall not have any trouble in reassuring you entirely. Apart from our troops in the Herzegovina, whose number varies according to strategic necessities, there has been neither concentration nor change in the military forces on any point of the frontier. I will here recall, indeed, the fact that, notwithstanding the decision originally taken to assemble, as a pure measure of precaution, an army corps of 20,000 men at Scutari in Albania, the Sublime Porte gave it up, in consequence of the assurances given by your Highness; the last information received from the vilayet of Scutari being, indeed, to the effect that the strength of the garrisons of the forts on the Montenegrin side have not been increased by one man for the last eight months. I will finally say, my Prince, that our authorities have never had the intention of preventing the communications of the Principality with the outside world. The proof of this is that they continue uninterrupted, and that the Montenegrins go freely, and without being in any way molested, to Spouze, to Podgoritza, and to Scutari. From what precedes your Highness will see that the Sublime Porte has not adopted any measure which can preoccupy or disquiet Montenegro. We are then persuaded, my Prince, that, notwithstanding insinuations having the object of shaking your confidence in the sentiments and the kindly intentions of the Sublime Porte, your Highness will continue to contribute on your side to the work of pacification pursued by the Imperial Government in Herzegovina. We see a proof of this in the news transmitted by our Commander-in-chief in Herzegovina. Thus Moukhtar Pasha announces that he has

revictualled Nichsich without meeting on his march with any resistance on the part of the insurgents, and that his return to Gatchko has been equally effected without obstacle. The Sublime Porte is glad to attribute this result to the dispositions taken by your Highness to restrain the refugees who are in Montenegro, and to prevent their joining the insurgents, so that the latter, seeing themselves isolated, have not dared to disturb the passage of the convoys of provisions and of the troops which accompanied them. Thus your Highness can be assured that His Imperial Majesty the Sultan duly appreciates this new proof of the loyal sentiments of your Highness, and that he will take into consideration in fitting time and season the line of conduct followed by him in this affair.

No. 517.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, June 30, 1876.*

COUNT KAROLYI informs me that, in consequence of Mr. Ffrench having communicated to Count Andrassy your Lordship's despatch to Lord A. Loftus of the 14th instant, he had been instructed to state to the German Government that his Government would disapprove and object to any possible autonomy for the Provinces in insurrection.

He asked me if a similar communication had been made by me to the German Government. I answered that I had not made any such communication.

No. 518.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 30, 1876.*

ON the 23rd instant the Russian Ambassador informed me that he had received a telegram from Prince Gortchakow at Ems, stating that Russia would continue to exert her efforts to restrain Servia and Montenegro; but that the latest news was of a disquieting nature, and it was to be feared that a conflict was imminent.

His Excellency took that opportunity of expressing a hope that the proposals contained in Prince Gortchakow's note would meet the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 519.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June 30, 1876.*

ON the 26th instant Count Schouvaloff informed me that he had heard from Prince Gortchakow explaining his meaning in making use of the expression "autonomie vassale et tributaire," in allusion to the future of the insurgent Provinces.

He considered that autonomy did not mean sovereignty. That the sovereignty of these Provinces should remain with the Sultan intact; and that the eventuality of a Sovereign Prince over Bosnia and Herzegovina was not comprised in his project.

Count Schouvaloff explained that what the Prince desired was simply an administrative autonomy, and he thought that if the Sultan yielded this point the struggle would cease the same day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 520.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 1.)

My Lord, *Paris, June 29, 1876.*

I HAD this morning the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch of the day before yesterday, containing instructions relative to the Duc Decazes' suggestion that a strong and solemn warning should be given in concert by all the Great Powers to Servia to forbear from aggressive measures towards the Porte.

In pursuance of those instructions, I spoke to the Duc Decazes on the subject this evening.

I began by explaining to his Excellency what had taken place with regard to the advice already given to Servia by the Government of Her Majesty on the invitation of the Government of Austria. I proceeded to state, in the words of the last paragraph of your Lordship's despatch, that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to repeat that advice, if the other Powers whose influence over Servia is so apparent are also ready to do so, and to show the reality of their sentiments by firmly discouraging the incentives to hostile measures against Turkey, which Servia is receiving from foreign agitators, and agents of Slav Committees.

The Duke said that his last accounts from Servia were very alarming, and led to the belief that Prince Milan's troops were on the point of crossing the frontier, if, indeed, a part of them had not already done so. His Excellency proceeded to tell me that on receiving these accounts last night, he had at once despatched by telegraph to the French Agent at Belgrade orders to warn Prince Milan once more of the danger he was incurring, and to make it clear that up to the very last moment the French Government had done all in its power to deter His Highness from the hazardous enterprise into which he seemed about to rush.

But, notwithstanding the very unfavourable character of the last intelligence, the Duke would not abandon all hope of averting the calamity. It was, he thought, still possible that it might not yet be too late to stop the Prince. He should at once make known by telegraph to the other Powers the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government, and invite them to join in a solemn warning to Servia.

In order to make sure that the Duke understood correctly the views of Her Majesty's Government, I read to him the last paragraph of your Lordship's despatch, and also showed it to him.

His Excellency then drew up a telegram to be sent off for communication to the other Governments, and read it to me. It stated that, in consequence of a suggestion from him, Her Majesty's Government were ready to unite with the other five Powers in giving a fresh warning to Servia, and it appeared to me to be sufficiently in conformity with the terms of your Lordship's despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 521.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, July 1, 1876.*

THE Russian Ambassador called to-day and asked me whether, in the event of war breaking out between Turkey and Servia, Her Majesty's Government intended, as he had been led to believe, to adhere to a policy of strict and absolute non-intervention.

I said that such was undoubtedly the case, but that it must be clearly understood that Her Majesty's Government entered into no engagement to continue to abstain from intervention, in the event (which, however, I could not assume as probable) of a different course being pursued by other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 522.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 3.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, June* 28, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th instant, I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a note which I have received from M. de Giers, in which his Excellency states that similar instructions to those addressed by Her Majesty's Government to the Admiral commanding Her Majesty's Naval Forces in the Mediterranean will be forwarded by the Imperial Government to the Commander of the Russian squadron in the Mediterranean, enjoining the observance of the International Regulation relating to the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, in conformity with the Treaties of 1841, 1856, and 1871.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 522.

M. de Giers to Lord A. Loftus.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{15}{27}$ *Juin*, 1876.

VOTRE Excellence a bien voulu m'informer par sa note en date du $\frac{7}{19}$ de ce mois, que le Commandant des forces navales Britanniques dans les eaux de Turquie a reçu de son Gouvernement l'ordre de se conformer aux stipulations du Traité de Londres de 1841, relativement aux Détroits des Dardanelles et du Bosphore, en tant que ces stipulations ont été sanctionnées par les Traités de 1856 et 1871.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique a exprimé en même temps le désir que les commandants des escadres des autres pays dans les mêmes parages fussent munis d'instructions analogues.

Ne voyant aucun inconvénient à accéder au vœu du Cabinet de Londres, le Ministère Impérial l'a porté à la connaissance du Ministère de la Marine.

Je suis aujourd'hui en mesure de prévenir votre Excellence que le Commandant de l'escadre Russe dans la Méditerranée recevra des instructions pareilles à celles du Commandant Anglais, en ce qui concerne l'observation du régime international des Détroits, conformément aux Traités de 1841, 1856, et 1871.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Petersburgh, June* $\frac{15}{27}$, 1876.

YOUR Excellency had the goodness to inform me in your note of the $\frac{7}{19}$th of this month, that the officer in command of the British Naval Forces in Turkish waters had received from his Government the order to act in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of London of 1841, relative to the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, in so far as those stipulations have been confirmed by the Treaties of 1856 and 1871.

The Government of Her Britannic Majesty expressed at the same time a wish that the Commanders of the squadrons of other countries in the same waters might be furnished with similar instructions.

Seeing no objection to complying with the wish of the Cabinet of London, the Imperial Ministry laid it before the Ministry of Marine.

I am now in a position to inform your Excellency that the Commander of the Russian squadron in the Mediterranean will receive instructions similar to those of the English officer in command, as regards the observance of the international regulation, in conformity with the Treaties of 1841, 1856, and 1871.

I request, &c.
(Signed) GIERS.

No. 523.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

My Lord, *Berlin, July 1, 1876.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch of the 5th ultimo, addressed to Lord Odo Russell, on the subject of the Dardanelles Convention of 1841, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the German Government were at once informed of the instructions issued by Her Majesty's Government to the Admiral in command of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Mediterranean to be careful to avoid any occasion of contravening the provisions of that Treaty as confirmed by the Treaties of 1856 and 1871.

I have now been informed by M. de Radowitz that identical instructions had already been sent to the officer in command of the German naval forces in the Mediterranean.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 524.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 3.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Juillet, 1876.*

LE Prince de Serbie a adressé à son Altesse le Grand Vézir une lettre assez longue, datée le 22 Juin, dans laquelle, après avoir articulé certains griefs non fondés, et parlé de la concentration des troupes du côté de la ligne de démarcation, il finit par déclarer sa résolution de co-opérer, par l'emploi des forces militaires de la Serbie, a l'établissement d'un état de choses favorable aux intérêts communs de l'Empire et de la Principauté.

Le Prince prie, par conséquent, la Sublime Porte de lui faciliter sa mission, en donnant aux autorités Impériales l'ordre de renvoyer dans leurs foyers ce qu'il appelle des bandes des pillards, faisant allusion aux irréguliers, et d'enjoindre aux troupes Impériales de ne pas mettre obstacle à ses efforts, afin de lui permettre de professer hautement le principe de l'intégrité de l'Empire.

En même temps, dans une dépêche adressée à l'Agent de la Principauté, M. Ristich l'invite à proposer à la Sublime Porte de confier au Gouvernement Princier l'administration de la Bosnie contre le paiement annuel d'une somme fixe et invariable.

Cette étrange proposition ne pouvait évidemment être admise. Cependant, nous nous proposions de répondre à cette lettre du Prince Milan pour réfuter une à une les accusations qu'il y avait formulées contre la Sublime Porte, lorsque, aujourd'hui même, nous avons reçu de nos autorités civiles et militaires des vilayets de la Bosnie et du Danube l'avis officiel de l'entrée des troupes Serviennes, avec leur artillerie, le 1er et le 2 Juillet, par trois points différents, sur le territoire Ottoman, ce qui a motivé l'envoi immédiat contre eux des troupes Impériales.

D'autre part, le Prince de Monténégro, dans un long télégramme adressé à son Altesse le Grand Vézir, parlant d'une foule de griefs imaginaires, déclare, à son tour, que la situation équivoque des relations toujours tendues fait place dès aujourd'hui à la situation plus nette des hostilités déclarées.

Ainsi, ces deux Principautés ont mis fin à leurs tergiversations, et sont à l'heure qu'il est en guerre ouverte avec la Cour Suzeraine.

Je me ferai un devoir de vous télégraphier le résultat des engagements qui ont lieu sur trois points différents entre nos troupes et les Serviens.

Je vous communiquerai également par télégraphe, au fur et à mesure, l'issue des divers combats qui pourraient avoir lieu.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July 2, 1876.*

THE Prince of Servia has addressed to His Highness the Grand Vizier a somewhat lengthy letter dated June 22, in which, after having mentioned some unfounded complaints, and spoken of the concentration of troops on the frontier, he finishes by

declaring his resolution to co-operate, by the employment of the military forces of Servia, in the establishment of a state of things favourable to the common interests of the Empire and the Principality.

The Prince consequently begs the Sublime Porte to facilitate his mission by giving to the Imperial Authorities the order to send home what he calls bands of robbers, alluding to the irregulars, and to enjoin on the Imperial troops not to oppose his efforts, so that he may proclaim loudly the principle of the integrity of the Empire.

Simultaneously, in a despatch addressed to the Agent of the Principality, M. Ristitch invites him to propose to the Sublime Porte to confide to the Government of the Prince the administration of Bosnia in return for the annual payment of a fixed and invariable sum.

This strange proposal can evidently not be entertained. Nevertheless, we proposed to reply to this letter of Prince Milan by refuting one by one the accusations which he had brought against the Sublime Porte, when, this very day, we have received from the civil and military authorities of the vilayets of Bosnia and the Danube official news of the entry of Servian troops with their artillery on the 1st and 2nd of July upon Ottoman territory at three different points, which has caused the immediate advance against them of the Imperial troops.

On the other hand, the Prince of Montenegro, in a long telegram addressed to His Highness the Grand Vizier, speaking of a mass of imaginary complaints, declares for his part that the equivocal situation of relations always delicate makes place from to-day for the more clearly defined position of declared hostilities.

Thus, these two Principalities have put an end to their equivocations, and are at this hour in open war against the Sovereign Court.

I shall not fail to telegraph you the result of the engagements which take place on the three different points between our troops and the Servians.

I will also communicate to you by telegraph, as they happen, the issue of the different battles which may take place.

No. 525.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 4, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the course taken by your Excellency with regard to the general alarm produced by the murder of the two Turkish Ministers, and in consequence of your apprehension that your colleagues might be thereby induced to recommend the summoning of ships of war to Constantinople for the protection of the foreign subjects, as reported in your despatch of the 17th ultimo; and I have to instruct your Excellency to use your utmost endeavours to discourage the idea of sending for the fleets under present circumstances.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 526.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 4.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 22, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith a printed copy, accompanied with its translation in French, of the Proclamation which has been issued by his Excellency Eshref Pasha, Governor-General of Salonica, with a view to counteract and dispel the influences and passions which are at work to disturb public tranquillity in the interior of Macedonia.

The Proclamation has been printed in Turkish, Greek, and Bulgarian, and is being widely disseminated.

The District Governors have also been specially instructed to act in accordance with its purport, and to explain it to all classes of the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 526.

Proclamation of the Pasha of Salonica.

(Traduction.)

Habitants,

DEJA chacun connaît bien que la continuelle haute volonté de Sa Majesté notre puissant Roi consiste à la conservation de l'honneur, de la vie, et de la fortune des Mahométans, des Chrétiens, des Juifs, et de tous ses fidèles sujets; à la fraternelle cohabitation de toutes les nations qui sont sous son sceptre; à l'accomplissement des devoirs de chacun des sujets dans les bornes déterminés, sans user d'injustice ou de malveillance à un autre individu ou à son voisin et compatriote.

Certes chacun n'ignore pas qu'une personne, de quelque nation qu'il soit, qui s'approprie arbitrairement le droit d'un autre, c'est-à-dire qui attente l'honneur, la fortune, la vie des autres, ou qui force leur liberté et conscience religieuses, doit se soumettre par le Gouvernement à une punition analogue par exemple à l'emprisonnement, aux travaux forcés, et dans la nécessité à la peine capitale.

C'est la plus haute nécessité qui dicte un tel ordre de punitions au Gouvernement afin de conserver les institutions et la commune tranquillité de tous les sujets en général.

Tous les habitants qui se trouvent dans l'Empire, étrangers, ou de différentes religions, sont considérés égaux vis-à-vis des lois de l'Empire, et en ce qui concerne le droit il n'y a aucune différence entre eux, car vues les institutions religieuses et politiques nous ordonnent cette égalité.

Jamais l'assurance voulue ne peut exister pour la justice des droits quand il y a entre les habitants de quelque lieu, de quelque religion qu'ils soient, une méfiance et des différences. D'ailleurs le manque de confiance tient à toujours le tout dans une intarissable inquiétude qui réduit ainsi inutiles tous les efforts qui ont été pris pour le bonheur du pays, et de cette même manière la patrie même est détruite.

Tandis que, au contraire, quand l'harmonie et la parfaite assurance existent parmi les habitants, les affaires continuent leur cours habituel, et chacun, selon son occupation, va ou à son commerce, ou à l'agriculture, ou à l'industrie, et la patrie ainsi prospère et les habitants sont heureux.

Bien que depuis quelques siècles l'opinion publique, soit l'esprit commun, commençait par faire défaut, par raison de la différence de religion, Ottomans, Chrétiens et Juifs, et, en un mot, tous ceux qui sont sous le sceptre de Sa Majesté Impériale, et portent le nom "d'Osmanli," sujets fidèles de tout rang ne vivaient pas moins comme de compatriotes, et ressemblaient à un groupe de nationalités destinées à se donner la main comme frères.

Aucun n'osait jamais offenser ou attenter la fortune, l'honneur, la vie, et les religieux usages de l'autre, et chacun jouissait d'une entière liberté pour l'accomplissement de ses droits sociaux. Plus cette confiance s'étendait, plus aussi l'avancement et la prospérité de l'Empire s'accroissaient, et chaque nation et chaque individu en particulier vivait dans une entière liberté.

Quoique cette heureuse condition des choses existe encore maintenant, néanmoins certaines propositions de quelques ennemis de la patrie peu avant pendant la chute du système gouvernemental, ont laissé les germes d'une discordance et de méfiance parmi les différents sujets, ont plongé tous les habitants dans la tristesse, et ont mis dans le danger le commun progrès de la patrie.

Quelques-uns de nos compatriotes frivoles, se fiant aux paroles de personnes méchantes et malveillantes, se sont soulevés au détriment de leur propre intérêt, contre le bonheur de la patrie. Mais malheureusement la tristesse de pertes résultées par de telles démarches se répand aussi sur toute la patrie, car eux aussi étaient nos compatriotes.

Nous voyons de nouveau que les résultats de l'isolement et de la discordance se reflètent sur la patrie et ses enfants, qui participent à son malheur et à son bonheur.

Mais grâce à Dieu par l'actuelle restauration toutes les nuisibles tendances exercées par le système gouvernemental qui vient d'être renversé sont déjà anéanties. Maintenant nous nous trouvons dans une époque où, nous tous, nous devons employer tous les moyens pour la prospérité et l'avancement de la patrie, et à collaborer sincèrement d'un commun accord pour le bonheur et le salut de tous.

Ainsi nous espérons que dorénavant tous les habitants essayeront que chaque nation vive en paix et en amour comme ça convient au patriotisme, et que chacun assuré de tout s'occupe de ses affaires de l'agriculture, du commerce, et de sa profession; et comme nous avons déjà dit, le malheur qui provient de l'isolement et de la

discordance de même le bonheur qui provient de l'harmonie et de l'union se reflètent à tous.

(Translation.)

Inhabitants,

EVERYBODY already knows that the constant lofty wish of His Majesty our powerful King consists in preserving the honour, life, and fortune of Mahomedans, Christians, and Jews, and of all his faithful subjects, in the brotherly dwelling together of all the nations which are under his sceptre, in the fulfilling of the duties of all his subjects within the settled boundaries without injustice or wrong being shown to any other individual or to his neighbour and fellow-countryman.

Certainly nobody is ignorant that anybody, of whatever nation he may be, who arbitrarily appropriates what belongs of right to another, that is to say, who makes an attempt against the honour, the fortune, the life of others, or who forces their religious liberty and conscience, must expect to be sentenced by the Government to a fitting punishment, such as imprisonment, hard labour, and, if necessary, death.

The highest necessity dictates this order of punishments to the Government, so as to preserve the institutions and the common tranquillity of all its subjects in general.

All the inhabitants in the Empire, foreigners, or of different religions, are looked upon as equal in regard to the laws of the Empire, and as far as law is concerned. There is no difference between them, for both religious and political institutions order this equality.

This wished for assurance in the justice of the laws cannot exist when there are mistrust and differences between the inhabitants of any place or any religion whatsoever. Moreover, the want of confidence keeps everything always in a state of inexhaustible restlessness, making completely useless all the efforts taken for the happiness of the country, and in this way the country herself is destroyed.

Whilst, on the contrary, when harmony and perfect security exist amongst the inhabitants, affairs keep their usual course, and each, according to his occupation, goes either to his commerce, his agriculture, or his manufacture, and the country thus prospers, and its inhabitants are happy.

Although for several centuries public opinion, or community of feeling, as it may be called, began to disappear in consequence of the difference of religion, still, Ottomans, Christians, and Jews, in one word, all who are under the sceptre of His Imperial Majesty, and bear the name of "Osmanli," faithful subjects of every rank did not the less live as fellow-countrymen, and seemed, as it were, a group of nationalities ready to join hands as brothers.

None ever dared offend or make an attempt on the fortune, the honour, the life, and the religious usages of the other, and each enjoyed a complete liberty in the accomplishment of his several rights. The more that this confidence was established, the more did the advancement and prosperity of the Empire increase, and each nation, and each private individual lived in perfect freedom.

Although this happy state of things still exists, nevertheless certain propositions of some enemies of our country, shortly before and during the fall of the governmental system, have left the germs of a disagreement and of a mistrust amongst the different subjects; have plunged all the inhabitants in sadness, and endangered the common progress of the country.

Some of our frivolous fellow-countrymen, trusting in the words of wicked and malevolent persons, have risen to the detriment of their proper interests, and against the welfare of the country. But, unhappily, the sadness of the losses resulting from such proceedings spreads over all the country, for they were also our fellow-countrymen.

We see anew that the results of isolation and of disagreement are reflected on the country and its children, who share alike in its misfortunes and its happiness.

But, thank God, by the present restoration all the hurtful tendencies exercised by the system of Government which has just been upset are already abrogated. Now we are in a period in which all of us ought to employ every means for the prosperity and advancement of the country, and to work sincerely together by a common agreement for the common happiness and safety.

Thus we hope that henceforward each inhabitant will endeavour that each race may live in peace and love as is fitting for patriotism, and that each, assured in every respect, will occupy himself in his agricultural, commercial, or professional affairs;

and as we have already said, the unhappiness which proceeds from isolation and disagreement, as well as the happiness proceeding from harmony and union, is equally felt by all.

No. 527.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 6, 1876.

IN a conversation which I had recently with Count Beust, his Excellency observed to me that it was his opinion that, in case of a declaration of policy having to be made on the part of Her Majesty's Government, it would be desirable not to lay so much stress on a policy of non-intervention as to preclude absolutely the adoption by the European Powers of a different policy if justified by subsequent events not at present to be foreseen.

His Excellency has since informed me that as, in saying this, he had expressed only his personal opinion he had reported his remarks by telegraph to Vienna, and that Count Andrassy had telegraphed in return that he fully approved the advice he had given, and had instructed him to repeat in the name of the Austro-Hungarian Government what he had originally said of his own accord. Count Andrassy had, however, added that he wished it to be well understood that, under present circumstances, the policy of the Imperial Government was, like that of Her Majesty's Government, one of non-intervention. He still adhered to the opinion which he had expressed in his despatch of the 27th ultimo to the Imperial Ambassador at Berlin, and which Count Beust had communicated to me, that one of the two contending parties in European Turkey will be able to defeat the other, but that the victorious party will not be strong enough to reap in full the fruits of its victory, that is to say, to establish, as the result of its victory, a durable state of things.

I replied to Count Beust that I would not fail to bear in mind Count Andrassy's views as explained by his Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 528.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 7.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 24, 1876.

COUNT ZICHY spoke to me yesterday of the anxiety of his Government that the Porte should endeavour to detach Montenegro from Servia by means of concessions to be made to Prince Nicholas, and he asked me to join him in urging this course upon the Turkish Government.

I said I had already done so, but proposed to repeat the advice in the strongest terms, the news of the unopposed revictualling of Nichsich by Moukhtar Pasha making the moment particularly favourable.

I was able in the afternoon to convey a message to the Grand Vizier, through one of the most influential of the Ministers, representing that he should send a message to the Prince of Montenegro, attributing the absence of opposition to the expedition to the salutary influence of the Prince, and saying that when tranquillity was restored the Porte would be willing to see what it was possible to do to meet his wishes in reference to the matters which he had at heart.

It would not, I believe, be possible to induce the Porte to make a direct promise of concessions of territory at a moment when it is so generally acknowledged that the insurrection has only been kept alive by the covert assistance of the Principality, but a communication indirectly implying that this would be done if a different course of action is observed might possibly be of use.

There are districts bordering upon Montenegro which it would be a positive advantage to Turkey to place under the administration of the Prince.

The Porte exercises no authority over and derives no revenue from them.

According to Mr. Holmes' reports, the inhabitants of these semi-independent districts are now the only real insurgents, and although they no doubt obey the orders they receive from Montenegro, the Prince cannot be held directly responsible for the

acts of those who are not his own subjects, as he would become if the districts in question were placed under his administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 529.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 10, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, July 10, 1876.*

THE Emperor and Count Andrassy returned last night greatly satisfied with the interview at Reichstadt. The telegram sent to Count Beust states that the Emperors parted on the best terms; they agreed to maintain the present principle of non-intervention, reserving for the future the expediency of coming to an understanding with the Great Powers according to circumstances which may arise.

The Emperor will meet Emperor William at Salzburg on the 20th instant.

No. 530.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 10, 1876.*

THE Austrian Ambassador communicated to me to-day the substance of a telegram which he had received from his Government on the subject of the meeting of the Emperors of Austria and Russia at Reichstadt.

The result of the interview was said to have been very satisfactory. The Emperors had agreed to adhere, under present circumstances, to a policy of non-intervention. If events should render it necessary, or if any specific issue should present itself, it was agreed that endeavours should be made to arrive at a general understanding among all the Great Powers.

Count Beust added that nothing had come of the new propositions relative to a constitution to be given to the insurgent provinces.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 531.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 11.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, July 11, 1876.*

THE result of the meeting between the Emperors of Austria and Russia has been reported to me as very satisfactory. An agreement was arrived at mutually that non-intervention should be maintained in the Eastern struggle, and that when necessary the European Powers should be concerted with.

No. 532.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 12.)

My Lord. *Belgrade, July 4, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying English translation of the Proclamation issued by the Prince of Servia as a sort of war-manifesto to his people.

This document is dated at the head-quarters at Deligrad on the 30th ultimo, but it was only handed out here on the morning of Sunday the 1st instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

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* Repeated to Embassies.

Inclosure in No. 532.

Proclamation of the Prince of Servia at the commencement of the War, June $\frac{18}{30}$, 1876.

(Translation.)

To my beloved People,

A YEAR has almost elapsed since our brothers in Bosnia and Herzegovina rose in arms to defend themselves against the excesses of an arbitrary rule and unheard-of acts of violence. Their sufferings always awoke a sympathetic echo in our breasts, and when last year we heard them breathe again, I announced to our National Asembly my determination to do whatever lay in our power to seek for a satisfactory mode of pacifying those Provinces, to whose fate we can never be indifferent. I said at the time that as Servia suffered most, both morally and materially, from those recurring insurrections, she has the greatest interest in putting an end, once for all, to a state of things by which they are caused.

But, from the moment that the Sublime Porte entered into negotiations with the Great Powers for the purpose of effecting the work of pacification, it became our duty to wait patiently and respectfully for the result of that attempt so zealously pursued by them in favour of our suffering brothers. But the measures adopted by the Sublime Porte having failed in inspiring confidence in the insurgents, the heroic struggle continued in the Herzegovina, and a cruel repression made itself daily felt in Bosnia.

Whilst we were looking on as mere spectators on our western frontier, a fresh insurrection broke out in the opposite direction in Bulgaria, which thus became the theatre of fearful devastation and acts of cruelty. The results of Mussulman fanaticism made themselves felt in European Turkey, and assumed such dimensions in Constantinople amongst the class teaching the Koran, that these are now exercising a paramount influence on the destinies of the Empire within the metropolis.

All these symptoms leave little hope of pacification, and the state of affairs, instead of improving, becomes every day more perplexing, leaving no hope to Servia of extricating herself from the difficult position in which she has been for nearly twelve months. Notwithstanding all these difficulties we have done nothing to embarrass the Porte or the great Powers in their attempted work of pacification; on the contrary, my Government supported numerous Bosnian refugees at a considerable sacrifice, we preserved order on our frontiers, and our army, which had been sent thither, was recalled. Affairs followed their natural course with us, and we gave no occassion to the Porte to mistrust us.

In spite of this the Ottoman Government surrounded our country with troops on all sides, from the mouth of the Timok to the mouth of the Drina. The Turkish army assumed a threatening attitude towards us, and, with its connivance, barbarous hordes of Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and Albanians made inroads into Servia, pillaging churches and peaceful inhabitants, threatening the latter, and frequently carrying off cattle, &c.

Brothers, for nearly a year you have suffered such acts of violence on our dear soil, entire districts have been compelled to act as watchmen, and protect their lives and families against pillaging forays. All our representations to Turkish authorities and to their Government have proved fruitless, and they continued to encircle Servia with their army, thus interfering with our commerce, and by putting a stop to our growing prosperity, compelled us to adopt exceptional measures.

Thus, without having war, we endure all the miseries of war.

Owing to your patience, to your respect to law, and to your obedience to my authorities, you refrained from giving vent to your just indignation at these numerous acts of violence. In the presence of such complications, can my Government be reproached with having carried out the resolutions of our "Skoupstchina," our National Assembly, in providing proper measures of defence for the security of the country, and still this is made a subject of reproach against us by the Porte, who has herself forced all these sacrifices upon us.

Brothers, without paying attention to your wounded feelings, I listened to the advice given me by the Guaranteeing Powers and continued in the path of reason and moderation, and I made you subdue your deep sentiments, but the Porte, instead of giving us credit for this forbearance, asked for an explanation on the subject of our armaments. Even then I endeavoured to make a modest and conciliatory reply, and proposed sending a special Mission to Constantinople with a view to bring about a lasting peace between us and the Suzerain Imperial Government. By way of replying to this offer, the Porte decided on collecting a variety of irregulars on our frontier, savage hordes of Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and Albanians approached from various directions, and even barbarous Kurds from Asia were sent for evidently for no other object than that of

exposing Servia to the calamities of fire and plunder, of humbling us, and destroying our prosperity. The Porte unable to justify its own bad management to the world, is evidently seeking for some pretext to throw on us the responsibility for its own crimes, and she imagines that it would be a great boon if Servia could only be annihilated; if a country whose institutions stand out in such striking contrast to those of the neighbouring Turkish Provinces could be made to disappear from the list of self-governing lands.

Brothers, were we to continue, after all this, in an attitude of forbearance, our moderation would be taxed as weakness, our silence considered as cowardice unworthy of the descendants of Doushan and of Milosh. Though a war between the Porte and the Servian people has become inevitable, I have, however, made representations at Constantinople, pointing out certain measures likely to pacify the disturbed provinces, and to extricate Servia from the perilous position in which she finds herself through no fault of her own. I demanded that the Turkish troops and irregular hordes should be withdrawn, and I announced that the Servian army was about to enter the disturbed provinces in self-defence, in the name of the humane and brotherly sentiments which animate us towards our suffering brothers, to bring them peace and order and reorganise them on a basis of justice and equality without distinction of creeds. It behoves the Porte to say only one decisive word, and thus put an end to the effusion of blood.

Servian soldiers, we go into this war, not with any feelings of hatred or revenge, but merely impelled by a strong desire to restore peace amongst our brothers. Proud as you ought to be of the mission of freedom which has been assigned you by Providence in this portion of Eastern Europe, go forward, soldiers, hopefully and with confidence, using your arms only against those who oppose you. In crossing the frontier, do not forget that we shall adhere to the principle of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, unless the opposition of the Imperial army should make our sacred cause depend on the fate of battles. Remember likewise that the provinces whither you are going are inhabited by brothers of the same race, ready to receive you as deliverers; some there are among them who have been estranged from us by difference of creed, but they still continue our brothers by race and language. Should any of these offer resistance, you must have recourse to arms; to those, however, as also to any of your enemies who are peacefully disposed, you must give protection for their lives, their families, their property, and their worship. This is my firm determination as well as your sacred duty, and by this means only can you gain the sympathy of the civilized world, and convince it that you deserve a better place among nations than the one which has hitherto been assigned you. Ours is a national movement, and there ought to be no room in it either for religious fanaticism or for social animosities; we bear with us the spirit of order, justice, and security; not that of destruction, incendiarism, or devastation. Strangers are to be treated by you with that spirit of hospitality which is innate in Slavs. Show respect to the frontiers of the neighbouring kingdom, and avoid every occasion of offence to the Imperial and Royal Government, which is entitled to our special gratitude for the generous assistance given to the Bosnians and Herzegovinians who took refuge on its soil.

Full of confidence in your courage and patriotic feelings, I go with you and as your leader; with us will go our brave countrymen, the Montenegrins, with my chivalrous brother, Prince Nicholas, at their head; we shall also have on our side the heroic sons of the Herzegovina and those of Bosnia, who have suffered centuries of cruel oppression. The laborious Bulgarians are only waiting for us; and the love of independence of the proud Greeks, the descendants of Themistocles and of Bozaris, will not allow them to remain long inactive.

Forward, therefore, by brave soldiers.

In the name of Almighty God, the righteous Father of all people, for justice, liberty, and progress.

(Signed m. p.)
(Signed) MILAN M. OBRENOVITCH IV.

No. 533.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Malet.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 12, 1876.

WITH reference to the communication made to you by M. Melegari, from which it appears that his Excellency attributes to Her Majesty's Government the proposal that, as a last resource, a solemn warning should be addressed to the Court of

Belgrade in regard to the warlike preparations which were then making by that Principality against Turkey, I have to state that although this matter may not be one of much moment, seeing the course which events have since taken, it may be as well that you should avail yourself of the first opportunity which offers of making known to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the suggestion emanated from the French Government, having been made by the Duc Decazes to Lord Lyons in the course of conversation, as you will see from the accompanying copy of a despatch which I have addressed to his Excellency,* and which shows the light in which the proposal in question was viewed by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 534.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 13, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I inclose, for your Excellency's information, additional extracts from the "Daily News" of the 8th and 10th instant, reporting the occurrence of further atrocities in Bulgaria and elsewhere, and I have to inform your Excellency that this matter has been again under discussion in both Houses of Parliament.

It is stated that in the district of Philippopolis alone 25,000 innocent lives have been taken, whilst by others the number is fixed at about 12,000.

It is reported that upwards of sixty villages have been pillaged and burnt, and the inhabitants reduced to beggary and starvation. Large numbers of Bulgarian girls and children are said to have been sold publicly as slaves at Philippopolis and elsewhere, and numbers of Bulgarians to have been undergoing torture in prison.

In one instance, where the fugitives fled for protection to a convent near Novo Selo, 40 girls were seized, violated, and subsequently burnt alive in a straw-loft.

Similar atrocities are reported to have occurred at Gabrova and other places with the connivance, in many instances, of the Turkish authorities.

I have to instruct your Excellency to report to me how far reliance is to be placed in these statements.

Your Excellency has already on different occasions remonstrated with the Porte against the employment of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, to whom many acts of cruelty have been ascribed, and Her Majesty's Government desire that you should, whenever you have reason to believe it necessary, urgently impress upon the Porte to see that its irregular forces are kept from committing atrocities which discredit the Ottoman cause.

Her Majesty's Government trust that the reports which have been circulated, and to which I have referred in this despatch, will prove to be unfounded. In a conflict such as is now taking place in European Turkey it is unhappily almost inevitable that acts of unnecessary violence and bloodshed should at times occur, and should give rise to reprisals on the other side. But the Porte will not deny that it is the duty of a civilized Government to use its utmost endeavours for the repression of such barbarities on the part of its own forces. The emergency of the moment, or the nature of the country, may render the employment of irregular troops a matter of necessity; but, unless these are kept under proper control, it is probable that the indignation which will be roused throughout Europe by the accounts of cruelties and outrages, and the sympathy felt for the inhabitants of the oppressed districts, may go far to counterbalance any material successes which the use of such undisciplined levies may secure.

Her Majesty's Government feel, therefore, that they are acting in the interests of Turkey herself, no less than in those of humanity, in warning the Porte against the toleration of acts committed by its troops which would arouse the reprobation of the civilized world.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 496.

Inclosure 1 in No. 534.

Extract from the "Daily News" of July 8, 1876.

THE MOSLEM ATROCITIES IN BULGARIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, June 30, 1876.

THE particulars I furnished a short time since on the atrocities of the Turkish irregular troops in Bulgaria have since been too abundantly confirmed. Every mail which has been allowed to arrive from the portion of Bulgaria lying to the north of Philippopolis has brought word of additional atrocities or fresh details of those already reported. In my previous letter I took pains to give trustworthy information, and to state as rumours merely what I had no sufficiently good authority for stating as facts. Some of these rumours have since proved to be true. I am not aware of one that has been disproved. I propose in this letter to adduce additional details with the view of showing what a body of savages have been let loose upon the peaceful, well-to-do Bulgarians. I have before me a large mass of evidence, in the accuracy of which I have no reason to disbelieve; but it is evident that it is impossible to make the names of the witnesses public. Many of them belong to the disturbed district, or have business or other connections with it. Others are in Turkish employ, and are only urged to an exposure of what they have seen by the indignation common to all men who have made the least advance towards civilization in presence of the brutalities to which the policy of the late Hussein Avni in employing Bashi-Bazouks and letting loose the Circassian savages has given rise.

At the very time that the tables of many newspaper offices in Constantinople have been filled with correspondence which they dare not publish, detailing the horrors of the carnival of brutality against which even some of the decent Turks in the neighbourhood made protest, the Government here was solemnly denying that it knew anything of the matter or had any information thereon. Our own Ambassador, through one of his dragomans, was thus informed, and was told that as there was no information to the effect indicated, the statements could not be true. Had the Government wished to know the facts—though, of course, it is childishly absurd to suppose that they did not know them—they could have sent a Commission to Philippopolis in two days. Instead of adopting this course they allowed their subordinates to intercept every letter they could lay hands on, and take every means they could devise to prevent information reaching the capital. Some of the facts found their way into the local journals. It would have looked ill to have suppressed these journals for the publication of facts, which, in the face of Europe, they were prepared to vouch for, and therefore these newspapers were suspended on other pretexts. Thus the "Courrier d'Orient" was suspended ostensibly for an attack on the character of the late War Minister. The real ground was that it had published a statement of horrors (which have since been confirmed) from a correspondent who had come from Novo Selo. I mentioned this incident in my previous letter on the subject of the Bulgarian atrocities, but I spoke of it then only as a rumour. I have since seen confirmation of its truth in two letters from the neighbourhood, and while the incident has been much talked of in the capital, no one has ever had any reason to suspect that it is an invention or an exaggeration. Of course if the Government were asked it would state that it had no information on the subject, and that therefore the statements could not be true. But anybody who has had the slightest experience of Turkish Ministers knows that this is exactly what they would say if they knew the statements to be true in every particular.

The village of Novo Selo was attacked by Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians. More than 400 women and children took to flight, and, worn out with fatigue, huddled themselves together in the open fields near Kalofer. They sent to the headmen of the latter village for food. After some negotiations to obtain the permission of the neighbouring Mussulmans, they received permission to take refuge in the Convent of the Holy Trinity. During the negotiations a band of 200 men burst in upon the poor wretches, took from them everything of value which the Circassian troops had left them, and carried off forty of the young women. These men returning to their village with their captives were met by the Turkish women, who objected to receive any giaours. They were thereupon driven to a neighbouring farm, and, after a scene which the "Courrier" describes, but an English paper dare not, they were shut up in a straw-loft and burnt. Other particulars are given by the "Courrier," but these are enough. This horrible statement, I repeat,

was not contradicted here by the Government, nor was the newspaper suppressed professedly because of its publication. Had it been, and the accuracy of the statements challenged, the truth would have been made manifest.

Great numbers of Bulgarian children have been captured by the Circassians, and have been sold, or are now on sale as slaves. So large is the stock on hand, that I am informed from a good source, that young girls may be bought for 3 or 4 liras each at Philippopolis. I have seen an official Report from a Consular Agent in the district, who has apparently no sympathy whatever with the insurgents, in which the estimate of those killed—non-combatants, that is—is fixed at 12,000, including men, women, and children. He adds, that the country is full of armed marauders, who compel all the wealthy Christians to pay heavy penalties, under the threat of being denounced as insurgents. The men and women are afraid to go to the fields, and the harvest is thus being lost. The great game, says another official's account, which is being played, is to arrest every one who is in decent circumstances. Upwards of 2,000 have in his neighbourhood been arrested; and the explanation he gives of the arrests is that the officials of every kind are wringing every piastre of their property from them under pretence of not charging them with being concerned in the insurrection.

I propose, instead of summarizing the evidence before me, to lay some of it before your readers. The following is an extract of a letter from Philippopolis, dated 22nd June. It is written by a man respected for his honesty, his high character, and his ability:—

It is difficult as yet to obtain positive estimates on the particulars of the havoc wrought by the Bashi-Bazouks in the district of Philippopolis. The insecurity of the roads is so great, that no Christian ventures to visit the destroyed towns and villages in order to ascertain by personal inspection the extent of the devastation. For this reason, while some estimate the loss of innocent life at 25,000 men, women, and children, others believe it does not rise above the figure of 12,000. It is not only in the villages which defended themselves against the plunderous attacks of the Bashi-Bazouks that no distinction was made of guilt, sex, or age; in the first weeks of the revolt, all Bulgarians found on the highways in the cazas of Philippopolis and Tatar-Bazardjik were mercilessly massacred. As regards the loss of property, it is simply incalculable. Countless are the families which have been plundered of everything they possessed. The system followed by the Bashi-Bazouks has been this:—As soon as they perceived, on their way to the insurgent district, a Bulgarian village, they deputed emissaries to demand the arms of the inhabitants. If the demand was agreed to, as was generally the case, the arms were collected, the houses plundered, and the inhabitants tortured for money; if not—if the least sign of resistance was shown, the village was attacked, taken by assault, the inhabitants massacred or dispersed, and the houses pillaged and burnt. Some sixty large and small villages were burnt in this way; about 4,000 families have been left homeless and penniless to beg in the towns, to feed upon grass in the mountains, or to starve. While life and property suffered in this terrible way, honour fared no better. Many are the young women who have been carried off from the destroyed villages—in some cases for a few days only, in others, perhaps, for ever—to form part of their captors' harems. A good many children have been also carried off, to be converted to Mohammedanism, and kept as drudges. All these horrors, all these wanton massacres and outrages, were committed in many cases under the very eyes of the civil and military authorities.

There is this thing besides to be noticed in connection with them, that no plea of reprisals can be put forward in their favour. It is true that at Avrat-alan and Yeni-keui some sixty Turks were murdered by the insurgents; but no case has been proved of a Turkish woman or child having been put to death by the Bulgarians, at least in the district of Philippopolis; while, as regards the general conduct of the insurgents towards Europeans, and even Turks who submited to give up their arms to them, the European officials of Baron Hirsch's "établissement forestier" at Bellova speak of the Bulgarian disturbers of order in terms which contrast very strongly with the language of the railway officials with respect to the behaviour of the Turkish restorers of peace—the Bashi-Bazouks. Want of discipline is not alone sufficient to explain the frightful excesses of these irregulars. It is now positively ascertained that both political and religious authorities have been guilty of the most inconsiderate appeals to the worst passions of the Turkish populace. The highest officials in Philippopolis have been heard to declare that all Christians were revolutionaries, and ought as such to be hunted down and massacred, as the Padishah did not want any more to have Ghiaours for subjects. There is also a story current of "Imams" preaching to all those who engaged in the holy war against the Ghiaours that every piece of Christian property pilfered was a legitimate acquisition for a faithful, and that every Moslem who killed one priest and thirty-three Christians war certain of a place in Paradise. I give this report on the authority of the Vice-Consuls in

Philippopolis. As regards the other assertions in the concluding paragraph, incredible as they appear, they are all facts, and I am even prepared to give the names of the officials who have been guilty of such enormous excesses of language. Doctrines like these, and the impunity shown to offenders by the Central Government, have excited the fanaticism of the ignorant Mussulman masses to such a point that peace is henceforward impossible in Turkey unlsss Europe takes prompt steps to put an end to a state of things which has become unbearable.

Here is an extract from a letter from Philippopolis, dated June 9, telling much the same tale. He, too, like the previous writer, is speaking as an eye-witness:—

The devastation of the province of Philippopolis is still going on. The flames which have encircled us since the breaking out of these troubles are assuming still greater proportions. Every Bulgarian feels that his life is in peril, and awaits his death from minute to minute. The Turks are extremely enraged, and the massacres continue. Thousands of innocent people are waiting a bitter death in the prisons. The Bulgarians seized in the towns and villages by the troops and Bashi-Bazouks, or by individual Turks, whether guilty or not, are being brought half dead, and subjected to indescribable tortures and sufferings under which many of them are dying. The prisons, warehouses, baths, and khans (inns) of the city are full of these unfortunate people. On the 3rd instant 450 prisoners were brought here from Tatar-Bazardjik. Their arrival caused such a horrible scene as to throw the whole city into consternation. These prisoners had been arrested in different parts of the district of Tatar-Bazardjik, and sent to Philippopolis to undergo their trial for their complicity in the recent troubles. They were bound with chains, handcuffs, and ropes, and were escorted by 200 soldiers. The populace, prompted some by compassion and others by curiosity or fanaticism, came out to see their entry into the city. As the sad procession approached cries and groans were heard from a long distance off. When they reached the bridge near the Government House I witnessed a most horrible spectacle. A mob of Turks armed, some with stones and others with clubs, fell upon and began to beat and maim the poor manacled prisoners. At the head of the procession of prisoners was a number of priests and teachers, all heavily ironed. Then came four waggons filled with dead and wounded. Almost all the prisoners were peasants. . . . . On the morning of the 4th instant sixteen dead were carried out of the prison, and the next night six more. Complete anarchy reigns throughout the towns and villages of this province. The Governor seems to be the only one who has at heart the true interests of the Government, and he is unable to restrain the fanaticism of the Turks. The idea is current here among the Turks either to annihilate or to materially weaken the Bulgarian element, so that they may rid themselves of every fear of European intervention. In the space of twenty days more than 100 villages have been burned in the province of Philippopolis and of Tatar-Bazardjik. Many other villages have been partly burned, pillaged, and many of their inhabitants massacred. Others of the inhabitants are wandering about begging, or are awaiting a miserable death in the dungeons. It is quite true that some troops have been despatched to guard the people from the Bashi-Bazouks, but unfortunately many of those sent to restore order are improving the opportunity for plundering on their own account. The commander of the troops comes to a village where the peasants have assembled from fear of the Bashi-Bazouks, and he at once begins to bombard their church and their school-house under pretext that they are insurgents. Sometimes he contents himself with disarming them simply, and then passes on, leaving them to the mercies of a band of Bashi-Bazouks, always sure to be following pretty close behind the troops. Last of all, then, come the Turkish neighbours, who gather around like vultures. Knowing that Ivan and Stoyan, it may be, were reported to have money, they hunt them up and demand money. In vain are they told that the other spoilers have taken everything; iron pokers are heated red-hot and poor Ivan and Stoyan put to torture.

At last these neighbours, finding nothing else, strip the last shirt from the backs of the unfortunate peasants, and, having satisfied their brutal lusts, go back to their villages without any molestation from any one. Hafiz Pasha went to the town of Panisgurishtch (Otlan-Keny) and burned the churches and schools and the houses of all the wealthier people, and then plundered everything. Not content with that, he put to death every one who had any property, lest they might be able to bring accusation against him. One such unfortunate man was named Landjo. From him the Pasha extorted 1,000 liras, and then put him to death. He then put Landjo's wife to torture, and obtained from her 800 liras as a ransom for her life, when she was snatched away by the troops, perhaps with the hope of getting more money from her, and no one knows what became of her. But the services of his Excellency in the cause of public order were not limited to this. He let loose his troops upon the inhabitants, and after dishonour-

ing the women and maidens of the place, attacked the girls and boys of ten to twelve years of age, many of whom died in their brutal hands. . . . Orders have been given by the Government that the peasants collected here whose houses have been burned should be temporarily lodged in houses and magazines along the river Maritza, and men were sent to watch over and guard them. These unfortunate persons, who have lost their all, unable to support life with the half piastre (a penny) per day allowed them by the Government, found some kind-hearted persons to go round and beg food for them. The officer, however, appointed as overseer, seems to have some kind of private instructions to cause their death, for he drives away every one who wishes to give food to the starving sufferers. "Go away, let them starve," says he. When this is reported to the chief authorities of course it is denied and pronounced a lie. . . . The brutal violations of these poor people by their guardians at night, as also their treatment of young boys, is too horrible for description. Suffice it to say, that when the Government authorities are appealed to they excuse themselves that they have no time to attend to such trifling affairs.

The following extract of a letter just received from Philippopolis fully confirms the accounts given by other parties of the treatment of the unfortunate prisoners in that city. It must be borne in mind that these are not insurgents, but simply persons suspected of complicity with the insurgents. The letter is from a person of the highest respectability, and in every way worthy of confidence. It is dated June 20 :—

The arrests here are assuming daily greater dimensions. The officers and directors of the two Financial (Savings) Associations remain in prison without trial. Although the rules and accounts of these associations have been published, and have been presented to the Government in Constantinople for approval, yet the authorities here are not satisfied with arresting simply the directors, but are proceeding also to arrest all the depositors, among whom are found many of our most respectable, quiet, and industrious citizens. Priests are being brought in every day from the villages. The horrors and barbarities in the prisons still continue. The people of the town are not permitted to carry bread or water even to their own relatives shut up in loathsome dungeons. Many are dying for want of food and air. Some of our most wealthy citizens are confined in cells along with Turkish murderers, and in addition to other tortures suffer from the Asiatic lust of their companions. There are women from Koprivtchitza and other places shut up in warehouses and suffering from want of food. Besides this the Turks come to them, and, selecting the fairest, violate them before the eyes of their mothers. The wretched women scream for help, but no one dares to go near. This same thing is going on at the present time on a larger scale in the towns and villages of this district.

Extract from letter dated Philippopolis, June 9, 1876 :—

"When the news reached us of the accession of His Imperial Majesty Sultan Murad V, all rejoiced in the hope that orders would at once be given for the better treatment of the accused now imprisoned in this city, and for the establishment of peace and protection in the province; but matters have since then grown worse instead of better. The members of the Commercial Association, "the Bee," Messrs. Peef, Vulkoff, Danoff, and many others, are still in prison, without having been once brought before the Commission for interrogation. Prisoners are arriving every day from Bazardjik and other towns. They are brought in chains, and mercilessly beaten upon the road. When they arrive here, on entering the Turkish quarter of the city, Turks arrange themselves on both sides of the streets, with knives, clubs, and stones, and attack them, reviling them with all manner of abuse. . . . . The villages which have escaped burning have been pillaged by the Bashi-Bazouks, consisting of wild Turks and savage Circassians. The village of Javorozo has been repeatedly visited. The people of Caza Toprak have complained that after having been plundered by the Bashi-Bazouks of their cattle and all their other property, they are still visited and maltreated by their Turkish neighbours. In the large town of Karlovo the houses of about 100 of the principal men have been pillaged, and their wives and daughters ravished.

The following is from Sliven, dated May 29 :—

In the market the soldiers attacked Detcho, the tailor, while the Redifs fired upon him and killed him. The same band of soldiers killed with their daggers a boy 16 years old, and mortally wounded Thodoraki Ahmakoff. Four men are lying in bed badly wounded, but those who are slightly wounded are without number. The Governor in this case showed a great deal of prudence and energy. The moment he was informed of these troubles he hastened to the place, ordered that the corpses of the two killed should be taken away, pacified the people, accompanied himself some of the wealthier people to their houses, while others he sent accompanied by his men, and commanded the Bashi-Bazouks to lay down their arms. In spite of all these orders, however, the Bashi-

Bazouks did not lay down their arms, and continued to walk about armed, so that the people, fearing lest their property should be sacked, did not open their shops. The Governor observing this ordered on the 13th (25th) the public criers to announce to the people to open their shops, but they opened only one door of their shops being still afraid of the lawlessness of the Bashi-Bazouks. A short time after the Bashi-Bazouks and the troops attacked the butchers' and bakers' shops, plundering all the meat, bread, and money they found, so that the shops were again closed. The Governor again ordered the Bashi-Bazouks to lay down their arms, and the Turkish Muhtars and Imams to tell the Turks to attend to their business. Moreover he appointed guards of soldiers to go around the city, and by these precautions tranquillity was established again. In the villages, however, the Bashi-Bazouks go about freely with their arms and commit various outrages, so that no one dares to go out of the city.

The following is an extract from a letter from Sliven, dated May 24 (o. s.):—

" . . . This is what is now happening outside our city. The great multitude of Bashi-Bazouks, composed of Turks, Circassians, and gipsies, who flocked here at the arrival of his Excellency Shevket Pasha, are committing various depredations in the villages, carrying off sheep, cattle, horses, furniture, and robbing the people of their money. Some of the poor villagers, in order to defend themselves and their property, had the courage to resist the plunderers; but this brought on their heads worse and more bitter calamities. The accusations of the extortioners succeeded in making Shevket Pasha suspect the peasants as insurgents. Among the number of these unfortunate peasants are the inhabitants of Boyadjik (a village in our province eight hours' distant from Sliven), those of Bash-Tepeh, (a village in the province of Eni-Zaghra, five hours' distant on the south of that city), and of six other Bulgarian villages near there. These innocent peasants having thus been represented to Shevket Pasha, he ordered on the 16th (28th) instant the Caimakam of Yamboli to go and investigate the matter. The Turks say that he found the peasants under arms, and that they refused to let him come into their village, stating that they had no confidence in him, and that they would surrender their arms only to the regular troops. On his return to Yamboli, the Caimakam during the night telegraphed to Shevket Pasha, representing the peasants as insurgents, and also that the inhabitants of many other villages had collected in Boyadjik. At midnight Shevket Pasha started from here with regular troops and Bashi-Bazouks, and determined upon the destruction of Boyadjik. As they say, first he fired seven cannons, and then left the Bashi-Bazouks and the troops to enter it. The village was complete burned to ashes. It is said that few of the women and children were killed, few of the men were left, while the Turks had not a single one killed. See what sort of insurgents were the peasants of Boyadjik. This tragic event occurred on Monday, the 17th (29th) instant, and in the evening of the same day Shevket Pasha returned to Yamboli. On Wednesday the 19th (31st) it was rumoured that Shevket Pasha started for the village of Bash-Tepeh, with his troops and Bashi-Bazouks. His Holiness the Bishop of Sliven hastened to propose to the Mutessarif (Civil Governor) of Sliven that before the destruction of these villages an investigation should be made to ascertain whether their inhabitants were really insurgents. The Mutessarif, deeply moved at the fate of Boyadjik, expressed his regret for what had happened, and giving a letter of recommendation to the Bishop for Shevket Pasha, he told him to go himself and hold an investigation about the state of things in those villages. Accompanied by a corporal, Mehmed Aga, and eight zaptiehs, the Bishop overtook Shevket Pasha in the village of Raradja Mouratti. Here he found also a certain Bey from Fundukley, who, hearing the mission of the Bishop, began to accuse him of having misrepresented the matter to the Mutessarif, and of having dared to meddle with military matters —something, as he said, inconsistent with his duty and office. Then the Pasha took out and read to the Bishop a telegram from Serdari-Ekrem—Abdul Kerim Pasha—in which it said:—'As it has been found on inquiry that the inhabitants of these seven villages are insurgents, you are commanded to destroy them.'

"Therefore the Pasha told the Bishop that he must fulfil the order. Hereupon the above-mentioned Bey went out of the room, and soon after two Turks, pretending to be in great terror, came in, and loudly informed the Pasha that the Bulgarians had destroyed their villages. The Pasha looking angrily to the Bishop, asked him, 'Do you see what your peaceful Bulgarians do?' The Bishop told him that he could not believe the report of these two men. Falling on his knees, he begged the Pasha not to destroy the villages; but to allow him to go and hold an inquiry himself. The Pasha complied with his request, and the Bishop, accompanied by the Caimakam of Em-Zaghra, started for the insurgent villages. On their arrival there, they found no insurgents but a host of plunderers, who were driving and carrying off the cattle and furniture of the poor peasants."

The following are statements contained in a letter from Koprishtitcha, dated the 9th of June (o. s.):—

"There is hardly a man left in the village. Those who were not killed have been sent as prisoners to Philippopolis under the pretext that they are committeejees (members of the Revolutionary Committee). The soldiers are quartered upon the inhabitants, and they do with them what they like. Everything valuable has been stolen, and the poor people are dying of hunger. One mother killed her children on this account, and then herself. These cruelties are committed by the regular troops as well as by the Bashi-Bazouks."

An official report before me says, in summing up the state of the district of Philippopolis:—

"In this fertile sandjak the most complete anarchy is reigning. The law is nowhere respected, authority is not in any wise respected. Where will it all end? God only knows. With tears in my eyes, in the name of humanity, and in that even of the interest of the State, I request —— to take pity on us and our fellow-subjects, and let the Government know all the gravity of our misfortune, and all the atrocities which have been committed, so that the neighbourhood may be saved from total ruin."

Reschid Pasha, who is responsible for the massacre of Peroushtitza, mentioned in my previous letter, the atrocities of which could not be exaggerated, is reported to have prepared for the vindication of his character in a truly Turkish fashion. He visited a neighbouring village, and compelled the trembling priests and headmen to put their seals to a paper certifying that Peroushtitza was not destroyed by him, and that only about sixty persons had been killed, most of whom had killed themselves.

A Turkish correspondent to one of the Turkish papers of the capital condemns in very severe terms the measures taken for the suppression of the revolt, and concludes by asking whether it is wise to continue to treat as slaves a population so far superior to their own in education.

The schools are the special objects of attack by those who pride themselves on having the secret of putting down a rebellion in the quickest way. The Bulgarians, working at an immense disadvantage, have by private personal sacrifice established a school in almost every village. Girls' schools have also been started in many places, and "Mothers' Associations" have brought together their contributions for the education of the poor girls as teachers for these schools. The High School of Gabrovo, for the preparation of young men as teachers, was founded by the proceeds of a legacy left by a Gabrovo Bulgarian who died in Russia. Some of its teachers are men who would hold a first-class position as teachers anywhere. Professor Ivan Gizeleff, the teacher of mathematics, may be especially mentioned as a man of culture and talent. He, with all his associate teachers, is now in irons, their school broken up, their scientific collections destroyed, and the school building converted into a military storehouse. A large number of school teachers have been hanged, and threats have been made that not a schoolmaster shall escape, and that hereafter no schools, except primary schools, shall be allowed. This is a fearful blow for a people who have struggled more manfully against ignorance, and made more sacrifices to keep up their schools during the past ten years than any other nationality in the Empire.

Looking through the facts before me there are indications of a general understanding among the Turkish authorities in Bulgaria that the easiest way of getting rid of the complications arising from European interference or sympathy on behalf of the Christians is to diminish their number. I see no other sufficient explanation of the deliberate system of plunder and massacre which has been organized. From no one quarter does there come evidence of any serious attempt having been made to repress the brutalities of the soldiery or of the Bashi-bazouks. All that Government appears to have done is to have given permission, or at least not to have issued restraining orders, to rob, violate, and kill all Christians, and to take every possible care to prevent evidence reaching Constantinople. It is noteworthy, too, that a special attack has been made upon the priests, teachers, and literary men among the Bulgarians; and I am assured that a high Turkish official has openly declared that the peasantry who are wanted to cultivate the soil are the only people who ought not to be exterminated.

As to the accuracy of all the main facts there can be no doubt. In Constantinople nobody hesitates to believe that many thousands of innocent men, women, and children have been slaughtered; that at least sixty villages have been utterly destroyed; that the most terrible scenes of violence have been committed; and that a district among the most fertile in the Empire has been ruined for many years to come. I have never pretended that the statistics of deaths and of plunder could be given with anything like accuracy. In an indiscriminate destruction of lives and property only the broad facts are possible. In

many cases, perhaps in most, there is a great tendency towards exaggeration. But I have taken the lower numbers rather than the higher, and have dismissed many stories which are probably well founded but exaggerated. In the statements I have made there is, I believe, no exaggeration. The allegations made in my last letter of the villages destroyed were definite. If any one is denied, the issue becomes one of fact, and I will prove it, or admit that I am misinformed. Till then, it is idle to talk about exaggeration. Most of the statements made have been communicated to several of the Embassies, including, a believe, our own ; and had there been any doubt as to their accuracy, either on the part of the Embassies or of Government itself, nothing would have been easier than to send I Commissioner into the neighbourhood, easily accessible from Constantinople, where the atrocities are alleged to have occurred. Let it be noted, also, that the more important statements as to the number of villages destroyed and of people killed have been published in the Turkish, French, and Bulgarian newspapers of the capital. All these papers are under a strict censor. In no case has he denied the statements or suspended a paper—as he does repeatedly in similar cases—for publishing untrue statements. He knew, probably, that they would plead that the statements were true, and would prove their truth. And yet these same papers have spoken of the accumulation of correspondence giving detailed accounts of these occurrences, the publication of which was considered by the censor as improper at the present time.

I have spoken to Turks who put the number of killed at 20,000. I have met with officials connected with various Embassies which have had special information, and have heard virtually the same account from all. Nowhere, to my knowledge, has the estimate of killed—the great majority of whom are on all hands believed to be innocent—been put lower than 12,000. I have spoken with merchants who have had private letters telling the same tale. The Bulgarian Exarch has made substantially the same statements to the Porte in an official paper. From all sources comes a compact body of testimony showing that crimes have been committed on a scale which Europe has not known for many years. Turkey has been telling Europe for years that she has arrived at a state of civilization where she ought to be recognized as within the pale of international laws, that the Capitulations ought to be abolished, and that she ought no longer to be treated as a semi-barbarous Power. The facts I have mentioned are sufficient comment on her request.

Inclosure 2 in No. 534.

Extract from the "Daily News" of July 10, 1876.

(By Submarine Telegraph.)

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, Sunday night.

A VIENNA telegram, dated this day, published by the "Courrier de France," says :—

"A horrible massacre of Christians, lasting two days, has just occurred at Gabrovo and the surrounding villages. There were upwards of 10,000 victims. The Turk sent from Constantinople to direct the slaughter is Ibrahim Bey."

No. 535.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 13, 1876, 3·40 P.M.

THE following appears in the "Daily News" of to-day :—

"*Belgrade, Tuesday night.*

"In the Tatar Bazardjik district in Bulgaria, the Bashi-Bazouks have, it is said, boastfully paraded cartloads of heads of murdered women and children. These exhibitions are their revenge after each defeat. Young women are now, it is affirmed, regular articles of traffic, being sold publicly in the villages by the Tartars and the Turks.

"It is very important that Her Majesty's Government should be able to reply to the inquiries made in Parliament about these and similar statements of atrocities."

Inquire by telegraph of the Consuls, and report as soon as you can.

No. 536.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 13, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a further extract from the "Daily News," reporting that in the district of Tatar Bazardjik cartloads of the heads of murdered women and children were boastfully paraded as their revenge after each defeat.

It is, moreover, affirmed that Bulgarian women are now sold publicly in the streets.

Her Majesty's Government are waiting to receive intelligence from your Excellency as to the truth of these reports.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

Inclosure in No. 536.

Extract from the "Daily News" of July 13, 1876.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.—MORE MOSLEM ATROCITIES.—PROGRESS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

(By Submarine Telegraph.)

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Belgrade, Tuesday night.

IN the Tatar Bazardijk district in Bulgaria, the Bashi-Bazouks have, it is said, boastfully paraded cartloads of heads of murdered women and children. These exhibitions are their revenge after each defeat. Young women are now, it is affirmed, regular articles of traffic, being sold publicly in the villages by the Tartars and Turks.

No. 537.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 6, 1876.

ABDI PASHA, the ex-Minister of Police, has been appointed to command the Bashi-Bazouks enrolled to operate against Montenegro, and has already left for Antivari.

Although an old man, he is active and energetic, and, from what I have heard of him, I hope he may be able to exercise a salutary authority over the wild mountaineers under his orders.

I have strongly recommended that an energetic commander should be appointed over the irregulars to be employed in Servia, and I have pointed out to the Turks that if the progress of their troops in that Principality is marked by barbarities upon an unresisting population, the indignation throughout Europe may become so great that the Government may be driven by the force of public opinion to step in to put a stop to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 538.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 6, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose two despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis upon the present state of Bulgaria, and the excesses committed in the suppression of the insurrection.

These have unquestionably been very great, as was inevitable from the nature of the force which the Porte was, in the first emergency, obliged to employ, but it is equally certain that the details which have been given, coming almost exclusively from Russian and Bulgarian sources, are so monstrously exaggerated as to deprive them of much claim to attention.

Cases of revolting cruelty have been mentioned to me in such a circumstantial manner as to make it almost impossible to doubt this truth, but which proved on investigation to be entirely fictitious; and, without impartial agents on the spot, I am unable to say more than that I am satisfied that, while great atrocities have been committed, both by Turks upon Christians and by Christians upon Turks, the former have been by far the greatest, although the Christians were undoubtedly the first to commence them.

I have spoken to one of the most influential Bulgarians upon the subject of the sale of Bulgarian children, to which Mr. Dupuis alludes, and he told me that it had also been reported to him, but that he had been unable to ascertain that anything of the nature of a traffic in them was going on.

Many fatherless children had been received both into Turkish and Greek families, but he looked upon them as having been taken chiefly out of charity.

I said I had already made representations on the subject to the Porte, and he promised to give me the result of the further inquiries he was making on the subject; but that the Circassians, who have no compunction in selling the children of their own countrymen, would scruple to sell those of the Bulgarians is not to be supposed, and I have not a doubt that many such instances must have occurred.

I have already informed your Lordship that very strict orders were given for the disarming of those lawless people, but the operation was found to be extremely difficult, and proceeded but slowly.

For weeks past I have never seen one of the Turkish Ministers without insisting upon the necessity of at once putting an end to these excesses, and their answer has been invariably the same.

They deny that the cruelties have been upon a scale at all approaching to what they are represented; they point out that the horrors committed on Turkish women and children are passed over in silence; and they plead that they had no alternative but to use the irregular force at their disposal to put down an unprovoked insurrection fomented from abroad, the authors of which are responsible for the sufferings which have been entailed upon both Christians and Mahomedans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 528.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Adrianople, June 28, 1876.*

I HAVE learnt that on the 13th of May last, when the village of Peroushtitza was destroyed, a few Bulgarian children were offered for sale by gipsy women, who found them on the roads between that place and Philippopoli. Nobody, however, appears to have heard of any children having been sold by Circassians either here or in Philippopoli, but it is not at all unlikely that such may have been the case in remote places. The insecurity of the public roads, I am told, is so great just now, that communication with distant localities in this province is extremely difficult, and it is precisely in those distant parts that the traffic in children by Circassians may have taken place. I am, therefore, of opinion that the reports made to Sir P. Francis in this respect should not be dismissed as unfounded until opportunities offer for further inquiries.

As regards the supplying of Turkish harems with Bulgarian girls, this is also a fact which I think admits of little doubt. Turks have been heard to declare that among the inhabitants of the burnt villages brought away after the submission of Abrak-alan, there were no young women.

According to respectable Bulgarian testimony, it would appear that in some instances the young women carried off were dishonoured, and then sent back or murdered, but generally they are reserved for Turkish harems. The same testimony states that from Peshtera and the villages at the foot of the Rhodope Mountains, a great many children were carried off by Mussulmans, who will be converted to Mahomedanism and domestic slavery.

I have reported to Sir P. Francis, and your Excellency may also desire to know, something of the judicial proceedings now going on in connection with the late disturbances. It is stated that the number of those arrested in consequence of those disturbances amounts to 2,000 persons, most of whom are innocent, and have been taken up either on slight suspicion or to serve as witnesses.

The detention of these people is the more to be regretted as the great majority of them are agriculturists who have crops to look after. As the harvest has set in, and no woman dares go to the fields alone, their families have been plundered of all they possessed, and, left homeless and destitute, now incur the further risk of losing their crops, and of being reduced to misery and starvation during the ensuing winter.

Instead of despatching business with those already in custody, the Istimakjis every day order fresh arrests. It is difficult to explain this imprisoning mania, unless there is any truth in the reports that some of the petty officials engaged in these inquiries are carrying on a lucrative trade in connection therewith. I am told that they employ as their tool a Greek lawyer, who is at present the official translator of Bulgarian papers found in the possession of prisoners. This worthy recently offered, I understand, to effect the release of an innocent man for the sum of 50 liras.

Seven Commissions have been appointed to examine the prisoners. It is true that each Commission contains a Bulgarian member, but when it is known that these members are chosen from amongst the most abject and obsequious Bulgarians, the value of their participation will be easily understood. The Commission for Philippopoli originally contained a Bulgarian, who, it would appear, had the boldness to make an observation favourable to a prisoner. For this offence he was informed that his services were dispensed with, so that now the Commission works without the assistance of a Bulgarian member.

Up to the present time the Commission have ordered the arrest of some well-known Bulgarians for offences which I am assured no ingenuity could connect with complicity in the recent insurrectionary movement. For instance, three Bulgarian merchants have been imprisoned for being, the one a President, the other Secretary, and the third Cashier, of a sort of savings bank.

It would appear that some young men, since implicated in the late troubles, withdrew their deposits from the bank before the outbreak. It is now endeavoured by the authorities to accuse these three merchants with knowing the end for which these young men withdrew their money; an accusation, I am informed, as baseless as it is afflicting for men of acknowledged respectability.

Another imprisonment which seems to have caused some sensation is that of Joakim Effendi Grueff, a Bulgarian author, who was at one time Mouavin of Philippopoli. It appears that the aforesaid Greek lawyer, mistranslating some Bulgarian books, alighted on some passages in a work by Grueff, which seemed to him to justify the immediate arrest of the author. The absurdity of this procedure will be best understood when it is known that all the works of this author, before being issued to the public, were submitted to the censorship of the Ministry of Public Instruction.

On the termination of the examination the prisoners will be tried before the Extraordinary Court (Mehkeme-i-fevka-al-adé), under the presidency of Selim Effendi, the Imperial Commissioner. This Tribunal is composed of twelve members, a Public Prosecutor, and a prisoner's Counsel. I hope to have an opportunity on another occasion of saying something on the constitution of this Court. For the present I will only mention in connection therewith that the whole system of defence by the prisoner's Counsel, an ignorant Bulgarian of Tatar Bazardjik, reduces itself, I am told, to the stereotyped phrase of—"He has been very stupid, Sir; do forgive him."

As I reported to your Excellency on the 26th instant, the first capital sentence of this Court was carried out in Philippopoli on the 21st instant. It is said that the prisoners were found guilty of putting to death twenty-seven Turks.

Prince Tzeretchw (Second Secretary of the Russian Embassy in Constantinople), at present in charge of the Consulate at Adrianople, in company with the Greek Vice-Consul in Philippopoli, on the 23rd instant, went to Tatar Bazardjik to visit some of the destroyed villages.

Great activity is being displayed by the Turkish authorities in the forwarding of troops to the Servian frontier. Five battalions of infantry and other troops were sent on from this to Sofia, Nisch and Widdin within the last three days, while further reinforcements are expected shortly to follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 538.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Adrianople, July 3, 1876.*

I AM still unable to report to your Excellency a happier or more satisfactory state of things in this province, and if I am compelled to bring to your notice the disorders that are being committed throughout the vilayet, it can be from no other motive than a desire that the Turks should by their conduct show that they are not what their deteriorators represent them to be—incapable of improvement. But, unfortunately, the reverse is the case, as the sequel will show.

Since addressing your Excellency on the 28th ultimo, I have no new facts to report, excepting the very serious disorders brought to my knowledge as having been committed by some troops on the 23rd and 24th ultimo, on the road from Carlowo. I hear that at two villages, but especially at Bania and Tchoukourly, in the district of Ghiopsa, caza of Philippopoli, they were guilty of gross excesses: houses have been plundered, men tortured for money, and women outraged.

Security of life and property in the country is still represented as most unsatisfactory. Money and labour are extorted with the greatest impunity from the poor terrified Bulgarians, and murders are frequent. Thus I am informed from various sources that at Yeni-keui alone, a village completely burnt, whose inhabitants were recently sent to look after their crops, several men are missing, said to have been put to death by their Mussulman neighbours, who are privately revenging themselves for the murders for which, as I reported to your Excellency, several Bulgarians were executed in Philipopoli.

I scarcely know whether to add to the above a rumour in circulation on the 24th ultimo to the effect that a conspiracy had been discovered among the Turkish population in Philipopoli for a general pillage of Christian houses.

It was asserted—and the removal of the troops from the outskirts into the town gave some colouring of truth to the assertion—that the attack was to have occurred the night of the 22nd or 23rd of last month, but that it was prevented by some Turkish notables. The Mutessarif, to whom representations were made on the subject, denied its existence. As I am not in a position to question the Mutessarif's information on the matter, I give your Excellency the report as it reached me, as an instance of the alarms to which people are subjected from time to time.

It is estimated that there are from 100 to 150 Bulgarian children in the hands of the Pomaks (Mussulmans of the Rhodope Mountains), five of whom, however, have been saved from a certain conversion to Mahomedanism, owing to the exertions of the Greek Consul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 539.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 6, 1876.*

SINCE I wrote my preceding despatch the Greek Minister has called upon me, and spoke of a report he had received from his Consul at Philipopoli, where there is no British Consular Agent.

This report mentioned a marked improvement in the state of public security, and the disarming of the Mussulmans was being proceeded with.

He said the Governor was acting extremely well, but was badly seconded by some of the other authorities.

I asked whether any of the Greek Agents in Bulgaria had spoken of children being sold as slaves, and he replied that none of them had spoken of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 540.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1876.

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to bring M. Dupuis' Reports, which are inclosed in your despatch of the 6th instant to the knowledge of the Porte.

You will at the same time urge strongly that directions be given to the local authorities to lose no time in repressing these outrages and punishing those concerned in them; that a proclamation be issued, prohibiting under severe penalties the sale of women and children; that the immediate release be effected of all persons who are held in illegal captivity by Circassians or other parties, and that the local authorities take charge of such released captives, when requisite.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 541.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 14, 1876.

I HAVE been prevented by illness from replying to your Lordship's telegram about cruelties in Bulgaria until to-day. I can add little to the statements in my despatch of the 6th instant. There is no British Consular Agent except at Adrianople, Roustchuk, and Burgas, and they have seldom been able to guarantee the truth of the reports that reached them.

There can be no doubt the instigators of the insurrection began by committing atrocities on Mussulmans and burning Bulgarian villages with the view of creating exasperation between the two races. In this they succeeded, and when the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians were called out, they indulged in every sort of misconduct, killing and outraging numbers of innocent persons.

I have not been able to verify the reports of cases of wholesale slaughter which have been brought forward, which come mostly from quarters not entitled to much confidence. A Bulgarian, upon whose statements I have several times made known cases of maltreatment to the Porte, assured me that the accounts published were grossly exaggerated, and he expressly stated that he had no complaint to make of the conduct of regular troops.

It, however, appears from other sources that the regular troops have at other times been guilty of great excess. Bulgarian children have certainly been sold, but I cannot find that there has been anything like a regular traffic in them. Until I received your telegram I had heard nothing either of cartloads of heads being paraded, or young women publicly sold, but I will make every possible inquiry. It was supposed here that the abuses had been put a stop to for some time.

No. 542.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 14, 1876.

VOLUNTEERS are offering themselves in considerable numbers for service against the Servians, and the Christians, both in the capital and in the provinces, are enrolling themselves. It is proposed to give the volunteer corps a flag, on which the crescent and the cross are displayed side by side. Nothing can be more striking in the present crisis than the almost unanimous loyalty shown by the Christians, and the hostility they feel against the Servian aggression.

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* Substance telegraphed.

No. 542.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 16.)

My Lord, *Solonica, June 30, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Elliot, with copies of its three inclosures relative to the alleged misconduct of the Bashi-Bazouks, in the Province of Drama.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 543.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, June 30, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of the despatches which I have addressed to Mr. William Davies, Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla.

Inclosure 1 refers to the apprehended disturbances at Xanthi, a small town in the Province of Drama, and not far from Cavalla; and Inclosure No. 2 relates to the report, as communicated to me by the Greek Consul-General here, that the Bashi-Bazouks have been selling Christian boys and girls in district of Drama. The Greek Consul-General promised to give me a list of the boys and girls who have been seized and sold by the Bashi-Bazouks, but has not sent it to me yet.

I have called the serious attention of the Governor-General to these matters, and have been informed by him that he has taken measures to prevent the Bashi-Bazouks from committing disorders. He has appointed a new Kaimakam sub-Governor at Xanthi, and has directed the Lieutenant-Governor of Drama to dispatch two Commissioners—a Turk and a Christian—to Xanthi to assist the local authorities in providing measures for the preservation of order and peace, and to make inquiries into the report about the seizure and sale of Christian children by the Bashi-Bazouks.

I also inclose a copy of a letter which I have received from the Secretary of the Governor-General, in answer to one I addressed to him relative to the alleged misconduct of the Bashi-Bazouks.

The inhabitants of Drama complain of the general conduct of the Mutessarif, Lieutenant-Governor Ali Bey, and the Pasha has suggested to the Porte that he should be recalled, and replaced by a more able and energetic official.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 543.

Consul Blunt to Acting Vice-Consul Davies.

Sir, *Salonica, June 28, 1876.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 26th instant, thus worded :—

"Reported great alarm at Xanthi. Christians menaced by large numbers of Bashi-Bazouks from Bulgaria. Thirty-seven prominent citizens have sent petition to the foreign Consuls for protection. What is my line of action? Telegraph immediately."

Early next morning, after communicating with the Governor-General, I dispatched the following telegram to you :—

"Pasha has dispatched Commissioners to Xanthi. Citizens should apply to Ottoman authorities for protection."

It is difficult, with my imperfect knowledge of what took place at Xanthi, to give you definite instructions for the guidance of your conduct. But under present circumstances, when there is a report abroad of a disturbing nature, I would try in a quiet way to discover its source and accuracy, and if I find that there is sufficient cause to apprehend disturbances, I would telegraph to my chief, and at the same time call upon the Ottoman authorities, in firm and earnest language, to take immediate

measures for the preservation of the public peace, telling them that I will watch and report their conduct.

I would also try to calm public excitement and combat false or exaggerated reports, and while doing my best to act in concert with my colleagues in the interest of order and tranquillity, I would not join in any act on their part which may tend to promote alarm, or to give credence to fancied or imaginary dangers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 543.

Consul Blunt to Vice-Consul Davies.

Sir, *Salonica, June 30, 1876.*

THE Greek Consul-General at Salonica informs me that the Bashi-Bazouks have very recently sold as slaves Christian boys and girls to the Turks in the district of Drama.

I would wish you to inquire into and furnish me with a report upon this matter; and I have to instruct you, in the event of your considering that the Greek Consul-General's information is founded on facts, to strongly urge upon the Ottoman authorities of Drama the necessity of taking immediate and efficient measures for the repression of such proceedings and for the severe punishment of the parties who are implicated in them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 543.

Mustapha Effendi to Consul Blunt.

M. le Consul, *Salonique, le $\frac{16}{28}$ Juin, 1876.*

J'AI reçu avec plaisir votre estimable lettre en date d'hier. J'en ai longuement parlé avec son Excellence, qui m'a chargé de vous assurer qu'il n'y avait rien à craindre; car immédiatement que ces bruits fâcheux, relatifs à la conduite illégale des Bachi-Bozooks, ont été circulés, son Excellence a télégraphiée à Drama et à Serres afin que les Mutessarifs soient vigilants et actifs pour toute éventualité.

Il est vrai que du côté de Serres, les habitants se trouvant à la campagne, quelques inconvénients comme des petits vols des bestiaux s'étaient passés; mais il n'y a eu rien comme violation ou ventes des femmes Chrétiennes; et toutes ces assertions sont dénuées de fondement.

Malgré tout cela, les deux Mutessarifs ont été ordonnés d'envoyer deux Délégués, un Musulman et un Chrétien, de chaque côté, sur les lieux où l'on prétend se passer ces actes abominables. Je vous informerai des noms de ces Délégués immédiatement que j'aurais, comme j'attends, une réponse.

Quant au remplacement du Mutessarif de Drama on y a pensé avant même que vous nous en fassiez amicalement l'observation; quoiqu'il en soit, nous vous remercions de vos nobles et sincères sentiments, et vous prions, &c.

(Sighé) MUSTAPHA.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul, *Salonica, June $\frac{16}{28}$, 1876.*

IT has given me great pleasure to receive your kind letter of yesterday. I have had a long conversation about it with his Excellency, who bade me assure you that there was no ground for uneasiness; for the instant that these vexatious rumours relating to the lawless conduct of the Bashi-Bazouks were first circulated, his Excellency telegraphed to Drama and to Serres to order the Mutessarifs to be watchful and active, and to hold themselves in readiness for any event.

It is true that, in the direction of Serres, where the inhabitants were living out in the open country, some unfortunate occurrences, such as petty thefts of cattle, had occurred, but nothing has taken place at all approaching to violation or selling of Christian women. All these assertions are entirely devoid of foundation.

Nevertheless, the two Mutessarifs have been ordered to send two delegates, one

Mussulman and one Christian, to the places where it is alleged these abominable acts were perpetrated. As soon as I receive the answer I am expecting, I will inform you of the names of these delegates.

As to the replacing of the Mutessarif of Drama, our attention was directed to the matter before you made a friendly communication to us; but, nevertheless, we thank you for the generosity and sincerity of the feelings you have expressed towards us, and we beg, &c.

(Signed) MUSTAPHA.

No. 544.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 17, 1876.*

A TURKISH functionary of high position has been sent as Extraordinary Commissioner to suppress the excesses being committed in Bulgaria. He will be furnished with full powers to inflict summary punishment.

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TURKEY. No. 5 (1876).

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

AFFAIRS IN TURKEY.

(In continuation of "Turkey No. 3, 1876.")

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

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Further Correspondence respecting Affairs in Turkey.

(In continuation of "Turkey No. 3, 1876.")

No. 1.

The Earl of Derby to Vice-Consul Dupuis.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

REPORTS have reached Her Majesty's Government that atrocities of the grossest nature have been committed by the Turkish irregulars on the Christian population of Bulgaria. The number of lives sacrificed is stated to have reached 25,000, upwards of sixty large villages destroyed, and the population reduced to starvation. Women and children have been violated and sold as slaves in the public streets at Phillipopolis, Tatar Bazardjik, and elsewhere, and that numbers of Bulgarians have been tortured.

I have to instruct you to proceed to those places and ascertain personally the truth of these rumours, and report the result direct to me with as little delay as possible, as well as to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 2.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 14, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

I HAVE instructed British Vice-Consul at Adrianople to proceed to Philippopolis and other places to inquire personally into the truth of the reported atrocities said to have been committed in Bulgaria.

No. 3.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 14.)

My Lord, *Rustchuk, July* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed copies of two reports I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte dated the 5th and 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, July* 5, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the first report that reached this of the commencement of hostilities on the Turco-Servian frontier of this vilayet was on Sunday last, the 3rd instant.

The Governor-General informed me that on Sunday morning the entry into this

vilayet at the point on the frontier opposite Sharkoi, or Pirot, of some Servians was reported at Nisch, on which a brigade under a certain Hassan Pasha was ordered to meet them; but we have not as yet heard more on this move than that, after some insignificant skirmishes, the Servians retired.

On Monday, however, some bulletins were published here as supplements to the paper "Toona," translations of which I have the honour to inclose, and which is the only intelligence we have received.

The Governor-General informed me also that he has subsequently heard that the number of the Servian losses given in the second bulletin (2,000) is over-stated, and that they did not reach 1,000. The rest of the bulletins, his Excellency stated, were correct.

I am informed that a great number of Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians are flocking to the frontier.

There is a considerable movement of troops and ammunition from this to the frontier. There are four Turkish men-of-war here, but as yet none have proceeded up the Danube further than Widdin.

I have heard that the Bulgarians in general here are talking very much against the Servians, but from what motive I cannot say, except it be from their having recently had so little assistance from them. At all events, it is said that this augurs well for the continuation of tranquillity in this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

Supplement to the "Toona" (the Vilayet Paper).

(Translation.)

Tuesday, June 22 / July 4, 1876.

VICTORY OF THE OSMANLIS OVER THE SERVIANS.

(No. 1.)

Telegraphic Despatch.

Widdin, June 21 / July 3, 1876.

A DESPATCH from the Ferik Osman Pasha, commanding the Widdin division, has just arrived, in which he says that yesterday upon leaving Adlieh they met with the Servians in the village of Isvor, on the frontier, but in Servia. The battle lasted till half-past 1 o'clock in the evening. The losses of the Servians are considerable. To-day he intends to move on the town of Zaichar. Whatever details are received will be communicated.

(No. 2.)

Widdin, June 21, 1876.

This morning at 8 o'clock the Widdin Division commenced hostilities with the Servians at the village of Isvor, in the vicinity of Zaichar. The battle lasted seven hours. The Servians, having lost over 2,000 killed, retreated. The Imperial troops have taken their fortificatious.

This is communicated to us by the Kaïmakam of Adlieh.

(No. 3.)

Widdin, June 21 (*received during the night*).

This moment the Widdin Division is leaving to repair the bridge over the River Timok, half-an-hour from Zaichar, which the Servians have destroyed. As soon as the repairs are finished, with the help of God, we shall enter victoriously into Zaichar. The Servians to-day also fell upon two of our companies of the Adlieh Division, but retreated without accomplishing anything.

(No. 4.)

Nisch, June 21 (*from the Mutasserif*).

The Servian troops have fallen upon the encampment in the vicinity of Urgup; the regulars and reserves were sent against them, and the Servians, not being able to withstand the heroic movement of our troops, were dispersed and driven back an hour's distance. The battle lasted from 7 on Sunday until midnight on Monday. The reconnaissance undertaken to-day shows that there are no Servian troops and insurgents now in the Arnaut country; and that in the battle-field a considerable quantity of arms were taken.

This is communicated to us by the Kaïmakam of Urgup.

Inclosure 3 in No. 3.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, July 7,* 1876.

SUBSEQUENT to my last report no news of the Turco-Servian hostilities has reached this, except from Bucharest, from whence we have received reports directly the contrary to what we have heard here.

I still continue to hear that Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians are employed in large numbers on the frontier.

There are two Commissioners in this vilayet presiding at Tribunals for the trial of those that are in prison for having taken part in the late rising.

One, Hakki Pasha, is here, and the other, Aly Shefik Bey, is at Tirnova. Between the latter and the Governor of Tirnova exists a personal pique which is perceived in all their communications.

It appears that the Governor of Tirnova was ordered to deliver to the Commissioner a list of the persons whom he was sent to try, and that the former, at the instance of others, did not include in this list a number who, it was thought, would be too leniently dealt with by the Commissioner, and who is said to be very impartial. This is what has been told me by disinterested persons here. I am persuaded that matters on both sides are being too much influenced by the animosity between the Governor and Commissioner.

The Commissioner here came to try the prisoners at Widdin, not one fourth part of whom have been brought here. At the present slow pace it is impossible to say when the Commission will terminate, and which is, under present circumstances, highly impolitic; as it being well known that many of these prisoners are innocent, this delay is causing much irritation here, and if the Servians were to enter far into this Vilayet successfully, it would not be surprising to see a rising which would obviously be more serious than the recent one.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 4.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 15, 1876, 4·15 P.M.

IT would be advisable that you should send one of the Secretaries of the Embassy, or else Vice-Consul Wrench, to accompany Mr. Dupuis in visiting the localities and reporting on the atrocities alleged to have been committed in Bulgaria.

No. 5.

*The Earl of Derby to Vice-Consul Dupuis.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, July* 17, 1876, 4·30 P.M.

I HAVE requested Sir H. Elliot to send some one from Embassy to accompany you in visiting scenes of alleged atrocities, as it is necessary that the Embassy should

* Repeated to Sir H. Elliot.

be informed, and there should be some one at Constantinople who can speak from personal knowledge.

No. 6.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 19.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 17 *Juillet,* 1876.

NOUS avons lu dans un numéro du " Daily News " une longue correspondance de Bulgarie, remplie de récits sans fondement et de mensonges les plus exagérés.

Les Bachi-Bazouks dont on parle sont les propres habitants armés de la province qui ont été dirigés vers le théâtre de l'insurrection. Ils se sont battus contre les insurgés pour défendre leurs propriétés, leurs familles et leurs biens, parce qu'au commencement de l'insurrection le Gouvernement n'avait pas assez de troupes régulières pour l'étouffer. Il y a eu en effet en Bulgarie, pendant la révolte, des actes de meurtre et de pillage commis de part et d'autre ; mais il y a exagération dans le récit des faits. Ce qui avait provoqué dans ces localités des rigueurs de la part des habitants Musulmans, c'est qu'on avait trouvé dans les papiers des principaux meneurs des instructions des différents Comités Bulgares qui prescrivaient le massacre général de tous les Musulmans et la destruction de leurs propriétés, ainsi que l'incendie des villes d'Andrinople, de Philippopoli, et de Tatardjik.

Nous mettrons sous peu sous les yeux de l'Europe entière un exposé détaillé de cette malheureuse insurrection, des faits et des circonstances qui s'y rattachent, ainsi que l'interrogatoire, le jugement et l'exécution des coupables.

D'après les détails rapportés par les Consuls, notamment celui de Sa Majesté Britannique, il y aurait eu massacre de 2,000 . . . . . du village de Boyadji-Keuy, dépendant d'Islimia. Ce fait serait également rapporté par l'Agent de . . . . . Britannique à Bourgas. Pour vous donner une idée de l'exagération de ces faits, il me suffit de vous dire que, toute vérification faite, ce chiffre se réduit à quatre-vingt-dix individus tués dans les combats qui ont eu lieu entre les habitants de ce village et les Turcs.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, ayant appris ces jours-ci qu'un corps de volontaires destiné à rejoindre les troupes se trouvant à Nich, avait commis, en passant au village de Hauikeuycouroutchesmé, quelques actes de pillage et tué une villageoise Bulgare, a envoyé sur les lieux son Excellence Kiani Pacha, un des Ministres, homme sévère et énergique, pour juger sommairement et faire exécuter immédiatement ceux qui seraient convaincus d'avoir commis ces actes repréhensibles.

Veuillez bien donner lecture du présent télégramme à Lord Derby et prier sa Seigneurie de n'accueillir qu'avec la plus grande réserve tout ce qui pourrait lui être rapporté au sujet de meurtres, actes de pillage et de cruauté imputés à nos troupes irrégulières. Nous connaissons les sources d'où proviennent ces nouvelles, que l'on livre à une grande publicité pour donner le change à l'opinion à notre égard.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, July* 17, 1876.

WE have read, in a number of the " Daily News," a lengthy correspondence from Bulgaria, full of statements without foundation and the most exaggerated falsehoods.

The Bashi-Bazouks mentioned in it are the actual inhabitants of the Province in arms, who have been sent to the scene of the insurrection. They have been fighting against the insurgents in defence of their lands, their families, and their goods, because at the commencement of the insurrection the Government had not enough regular troops to suppress it. In point of fact, acts of murder and pillage have been committed on both sides in Bulgaria during the revolt ; but there has been exaggeration in the statement of the facts.

What provoked acts of severity in these districts on the part of the Mussulman inhabitants was the discovery, among the papers of the chief instigators of the insurrection, of instructions from the various Bulgarian Committees prescribing a general massacre of all Mussulmans and the destruction of their property, together with the burning of the towns of Adrianople, Philippopolis, and Tatardjik.

We shall shortly place under the eyes of all Europe a detailed account of this unfortunate insurrection, and of the facts and circumstances relating to it, as well as

the interrogatories, trial, and execution of the guilty. According to the details reported by the Consuls, especially by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, there has been a massacre of 2,000 . . . . of the village of Boyadji-Keuy, a dependence of Islimia.

This fact has been likewise reported by the Agent of Her Britannic Majesty's . . . . . at Bourgas.

To convey to you an idea of the exaggeration of these facts, it is sufficient that I should tell you that, after complete verification, this total is reduced to 90 persons killed in the combats which have taken place between the inhabitants of this village and the Turks.

The Imperial Government, having lately learned that a body of volunteers, on their way to rejoin the troops at Nisch, had committed, in passing the village of Hauikcuycouroutchesmé, certain acts of pillage and killed a Bulgarian peasant woman, has dispatched to the spot his Excellency Kiani Pasha, one of the Ministers, a severe and energetic man, to judge summarily, and have executed forthwith those who may be convicted of having committed these reprehensible acts.

Have the goodness to read this telegram to Lord Derby, and beg his Lordship to accept only with the greatest reserve any reports that may reach him concerning murders, acts of cruelty, and of pillage imputed to our irregular troops. We know the sources whence these reports take their rise, which are given the greatest publicity, in order to deceive public opinion respecting us.

No. 7.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 19, 1876.

A VERY strong Proclamation for the prevention of excesses by the Bashi-Bazouks has been issued by the Grand Vizier. It warns them that if any of them rob or maltreat the population, they will be arrested and summarily executed. The officers are told that they will be responsible for the conduct of their men.

No. 8.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 19, 1876.

MR. BARING left this morning for Adrianople, to inquire into the alleged atrocities in Bulgaria.

No. 9.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 19, 1876.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant,* respecting the cruelties committed in the suppression of the insurrection in Bulgaria, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your exertions to put an end to those excesses.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 10.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 20, 1876, 2·15 P.M.

THE Porte has received information that Bashi-Bazouks of Haskeui have been pillaging and committing acts of violence on the inhabitants of other Bulgarian

* See No. 540 in "Turkey No. 3 (1876)".

villages. They have been arrested and disarmed, and their chief was yesterday hanged at Philippopoli. The others are still under trial.

No. 11.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, July 21, 1876.*

ALTHOUGH great atrocities have been committed by Turkish irregulars against the Bulgarians, they have been exaggerated. As regards Caza of Philippopoli, lives sacrificed below 15,000 (*sic*). No women or children sold as slaves here or Tatar Bazardjik. Sixty villages more or less burnt. Particulars will [be] given.

No. 12.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23, 5·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 23, 1876, 10·50 A.M.*

I HAD at first instructed Mr. Wrench to proceed to Bulgaria, but finding that important business would have prevented him from starting for some days, in order to save time I sent Mr. Baring instead, who is fully as well qualified for the service.

If there had not been some inconvenience in sparing Mr. Baring at that moment, I should, in the first instance, have selected him for what is Embassy and not Consular business.

No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 23, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 23, 1876, 11·43 A.M.*

I SPOKE to the Grand Vizier yesterday on the subject of the excesses of the Bashi-Bazouks in Bulgaria. Most of the excesses, his Excellency said, had been committed by unauthorized bands, and the utmost was being done by the Government to put them down. Three had already been hanged, and he said that a considerable portion of the villages destroyed were burned by the insurgents. A high Roman Catholic dignitary, who had received reports from his Committees, made the same statement to me.

The Grand Vizier said that evidence is in possession of the Porte, which will now be published, showing that the project of the insurgents was to exterminate the Mahommedans in Bulgaria, where they are in a great minority, and that the exasperation which led to the excesses afterwards committed was produced by the insurgents beginning at once to carry out their plans.

This explanation, I observed, did not account for what was stated to have occurred at Boyadjik, but his Excellency declared that statement not to be true.

No. 14.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 24.)

My Lord, *Berlin, July 20, 1876.*

I REGRET to say that the information received by the German Government confirms the reports respecting the atrocities committed by the Turks in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 15.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 24, 1876.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 30th ultimo,* relating to apprehended disturbances at Xanthie, and to the report communicated to you by the Greek Consul-General that Bashi-Bazouks had been selling Christian boys and girls in the district of Drana, I have to approve the measures taken by you with the view of ensuring the prompt repression of such proceedings, and the severe punishment of the parties implicated in them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 16.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 26, 1876.*

WITH reference to your telegrams of the 19th and 23rd instant, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having sent Mr. Baring to Adrianople to inquire into the alleged atrocities in Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 17.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, July 28.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 26 Juillet, 1876.*

JE vous transmets ci-après le résumé du Rapport dont fait mention mon télégramme du 17 de ce mois :—

Le Caïmacam de Bazardjik a fait savoir aux autorités de Philippopoli que des instructions venaient d'être envoyées aux différents Comités Révolutionnaires leur prescrivant de provoquer l'explosion pour le 1er Mai, 1876, sur tous les points à la fois, du mouvement insurrectionnel Bulgare, préparé et organisé de longue main sur des instigations étrangères ; que des transports clandestins d'armes et de munitions s'effectuaient ; que des travaux de retranchements étaient entrepris aux environs des villages Avrat-Alan, Otlouk, Persedin, Derbend, et autres localités du Sandjiak de Philippopoli, sises au pied du grand Balkan, et que, pour ne pas donner l'éveil, on avait soin d'empêcher les voyageurs Musulmans de traverser ces villages ou de s'y arrêter. Aussitôt les Officiers de Gendarmerie Ahmed et Nedjib Aghas ont été expédiés à Avrat-Alan, avec mission de procéder à une enquête et d'arrêter les coupables.

L'ex-Gouverneur du Sandjak se rendit en personne à Bazardjik, escorté de quelques cavaliers, et de là il se dirigea vers la même localité. Sur l'avis donné par les affiliés de l'insurrection que ces officiers venaient de partir pour Avrat-Alan avec ordre d'arrêter les membres du Comité Révolutionnaire, Ahmed et Nédjib Aghas, suivis de leur escorte, sont attaqués en route par des villageois Chrétiens armés, qui les somment de se rendre en leur disant : " Bazardjik a entièrement brûlé ; les Musulmans qui ont refusé de se soumettre ont été massacrés ; toute résistance est donc inutile."

Pour toute réponse, Ahmed se défend les armes à la main ; et, après avoir blessé quelques-uns de ces individus, il parvient à s'enfuir avec ses compagnons. Nedjib Agha parvient de son côté à se soustraire aux coups de ses agresseurs et à rentrer sain et sauf.

L'ex-Gouverneur-Général, qui se trouvait en route pour le village d'Otlouk, comprenant alors la gravité de la situation, juge à propos de revenir sur ses pas afin de prendre les mesures exigées par les circonstances. Quoiqu'il fût arrêté et convenu parmi les conspirateurs que le mouvement insurrectionnel n'éclaterait que dans les premiers jours de Mai, le complot ayant été tout-à-coup dévoilé, le jour de l'explosion

* See No. 543 in " Turkey No. 3 (1876)".

a dû être avancé ; les rebelles, comprenant, d'ailleurs, que tout ajournement compromettrait leurs projets, se sont hâtés de lever l'étendard de la révolte. Les débuts du mouvement ont été marqués, dans certains quartiers de Bazardjik et dans les petits villages environnants, par le massacre des Musulmans, hommes, femmes, vieillards, et enfants.

Les fils télégraphiques ont été coupés, les ponts détruits, les corps-de-garde de gendarmerie dans les localités dites Kiz et Turk-Derbend assaillis et brûlés, après que les hommes qui les occupaient avaient été tués. On incendia les relais et la station de Belova, faisant ainsi périr dans les flammes les personnes qui s'y étaient enfermées, et qui avaient refusé de se rendre.

On massacra partout les employés du Gouvernement, tels que le Mudir et les Kiatibs ; leurs femmes, leurs filles subirent le même sort ; et je regrette que ma mission, et le respect que je professe pour la vérité, m'imposent le pénible devoir de rapporter ici l'horrible fait que voici : une de ces malheureuses filles a été mutilée dans ses parties génitales, et le monstre qui s'est porté à cette atrocité s'est orné le bras du lambeau de chair arraché comme d'un bracelet. Les habitants Musulmans des villages voisins, surtout ceux qui se trouvaient en minorité dans des villages Chrétiens, en apprenant ces scènes d'une cruauté inouïe, se sont hâtés de fuir devant la mort. Les Chrétiens profitèrent de cette fuite pour incendier leurs maisons, après les avoir pillées. Les Musulmans, épouvantés par la vue de tant de malheureux qui, ayant pu échapper sanglants des mains des rebelles, accouraient à Bazardjik, à Philippopoli, et dans d'autres grands villages Musulmans, se sont tous armés à la hâte ; des corps de volontaires furent partout organisés afin de protéger les villages qui se trouvaient le plus exposés aux agressions des rebelles. L'arrivée des troupes régulières mit heureusement fin à toutes ces scènes de désolation.

Parmi les papiers saisis sur Belkoelski, un des chefs de l'insurrection tué dans une ambuscade aux environs d'Orhanie, se trouvait une pièce contenant les délibérations d'un Conseil des Chefs de la révolte, tenu avant le mouvement. D'après ce document, la révolte devait éclater le 1^er^ Mai ; tous les villages situés à proximité des défilés de Derbend, ainsi que les villages Chrétiens dont l'attitude pourrait être nuisible à leurs intérêts, devaient être incendiés ; les femmes, les enfants et les malades seraient transportés à Avrat-Alam et à Otloukkeuy, et tous les hommes qui ne pourraient pas faire la guerre seraient employés à défendre les passages ; des agents spéciaux mettraient le feu à Philippopoli dans six parties de la ville, à Bazardjik dans deux ; les Chrétiens des villages voisins, à la première lueur de l'incendie, et pendant que la population serait occupée à combattre le feu, devaient fondre sur les villes en flammes, égorger tout ce qu'il y avait de Musulmans et piller leurs biens ; quant à Andrinople et à Sofia, dont la destruction par le feu avait été également jugée nécessaire, des incendiaires, recrutés dans les villages, y devaient être envoyés exprès ; les habitants des villages Musulmans qui demanderaient grâce seraient séparés de leurs femmes, de leurs enfants et des infirmes qui seraient envoyés à Avrat-Alan et à Otloukkeuy où ils seraient protégés ; les hommes seraient conduits dans un autre endroit et surveillés jusqu'à ce que l'insurrection prît consistance ; ceux qui refuseraient l'obéissance devaient être mis à mort, ainsi que leurs femmes et leurs enfants ; leurs maisons devaient être incendiées et leurs biens saccagés.

Ces dispositions, arrêtées à l'unanimité des voix du conciliabule, étaient formulées, par demande et réponse, sur l'acte signé par tous les affiliés réunis. Différentes copies de ces instructions avaient été transmises aux chefs avec ordre de s'y conformer scrupuleusement. Aussitôt informée de ces faits, l'autorité se livra à des recherches qui firent éclater l'insurrection cinq ou six jours avant la date convenue à Poursiden, à Derbrend, à Avrat-Alan, à Otloukkeuy, et ensuite à Batak, à Bratch-Keuy et à Brouchaupa. Il en est résulté que l'on n'a pas pu mettre le feu dans toutes les localités à la fois et attaquer les villes en flammes, comme il était prescrit.

Après que les desseins des insurgés avaient été dévoilés aux autorités, comme à tous les habitants Musulmans en général, des troupes furent appelées en toute hâte pour la défense de la vie et des biens de la population ; des détachements de volontaires Musulmans se formèrent pour garder l'intérieur et les environs des villes, comme ceux des villages ; ces mesures promptes et efficaces ont empêché les agitateurs des autres localités de se joindre au mouvement ; néanmoins, au jour fixé, l'incendie éclata sur quelques points du bazar de Philippopoli ; mais la population, avertie par le canon d'alarme, est accourue de tous les côtés et s'est rendue maîtresse du feu, avant qu'il se fût propagé ; les Miliciens nouvellement formés ont défendu, de leur côté, la ville contre les paysans armés qui, fidèles au mot d'ordre, s'étaient présentés pendant la nuit pour l'attaquer, et les ont contraints à rentrer dans leurs foyers.

Il résulte de toutes les informations que j'ai recueillies que les villages d'Avrat-Alan, d'Otloukkeuy et de Batak-Keuy étaient les seuls foyers réels de l'insurrection d'Andrinople, et que la révolte n'avait pas eu le temps de se propager dans les autres localités. Les villages qui ont brûlé dans le district de Bazardjik sont au nombre de vingt-huit, à savoir : quatre villages exclusivement Musulmans, six villages mixtes, et dix-huit villages exclusivement Chrétiens. Vingt-quatre villages, dont quatre Musulmans, ont été incendiés par les rebelles, qui se sont ensuite retirés sur les montagnes, et ont occupé les passages. Sur ces vingt-quatre villages, quinze ont été complètement dévastés et six en partie; les quatre villages complémentaires ont été en partie incendiés par les troupes régulières et auxiliaires. Ainsi, d'après les vérifications faites sur les lieux, les ving-huit villages qui ont été en tout ou en partie la proie des flammes, comptaient 5,656 maisons, dont 2,667 ont été épargnées. L'incendie a donc dévoré 2,989 maisons ou édifices.

Ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, les troupes n'avaient pas été expédiées sur les vingt-huit villages en question ; celles-ci n'ont occupé que les villages de Otloukkeuy, de Bertchoka, et de Batak, le défilé de Persiden, et le village de Perouchidja, dans le district de Philippopoli ; enfin, le village de Boyadjik, dans le district de Kimana. Les troupes de réserve, c'est-à-dire, les milices Musulmanes locales, ont été seules à occuper les villages de Batak et de Persiden ; les autres villages ont été occupés par les troupes régulières et les milices réunies. Ce n'est pas seulement l'état d'insurrection proprement dit qui a nécessité l'attaque de ces villages, mais encore le refus obstiné des habitants à écouter les conseils de soumission et à se rendre aux sommations qui leur ont été adressées pendant trois jours. Le village d'Avrat-Alan était le centre principal de l'insurrection ; toutefois, eu égard à la soumission que ses habitants ont montrée, les troupes Impériales les ont traités avec les plus grands ménagements. C'est un fait qui peut donner la mesure exacte du traitement exercé par les troupes Impériales envers les autres villages.

Même lorsque les habitants refusaient de se soumettre et qu'il y avait lieu de les attaquer, nos autorités militaires les invitaient préalablement à mettre les non-combattants, enfants, femmes, et vieillards, dans un lieu de sûreté ; mais les insurgés persistaient à méconnaître les sentiments d'humanité qui inspiraient une pareille proposition, et les troupes Impériales se sont trouvées dans la nécessité absolue d'engager le combat, tout en épargnant avec le plus grand soin la vie des femmes et des enfants, les ordres les plus sévères étant donnés à la troupe de ne pas se livrer à des actes repréhensibles.

Malheureusement, les Bulgares dans leur résistance opiniâtre se trouvaient sur quelques points réunis avec familles ; c'est ainsi que quelques femmes ont été atteintes pendant les combats ; le Gouvernement s'est, d'ailleurs, empressé de prodiguer les plus grands soins à ces victimes de l'aveuglement et de la peur. Il y avait au village d'Otloukkeuy, 4,121 habitants de tout âge, à Bratchlieva, 1,574, et à Batali, 1,441. Le nombre total des paysans dans ces trois villages s'élevait à peu près à 7,000. Si l'on réduit ce chiffre de moitié pour les non-combattants, il resterait 3,500 hommes capables de porter les armes. En supposant qu'un nombre égal de combattants étrangers ait pu se réunir à eux, le nombre des insurgés atteindrait ainsi le chiffre de 7,000 ; or, la plupart des habitants de ces villages sont aujourd'hui réinstallés dans leurs foyers. On peut facilement juger par là des pertes que ces bourgs ont subies durant la lutte qu'ils ont engagée. L'examen des Registres de l'Etat Civil pouvait faire constater, néanmoins, la disparition d'un grand nombre d'individus appartenant à ces villages ; mais il y en a beaucoup qui se sont réfugiés sur les montagnes après avoir incendié leurs maisons, et il y en a d'autres qui se trouvent aujourd'hui disséminés dans les localités voisines comme journaliers et qui reçoivent provisoirement l'hospitalité dans d'autres villages ; il est donc difficile actuellement d'établir d'une manière exacte le nombre des individus qui ont disparu.

Le combat qui a eu lieu au village de Presiden a été insignifiant : aux premiers coups de fusil échangés, les paysans effrayés ont abandonné précipitamment les retranchements qu'ils avaient élevés et ont pris la fuite ; les pertes de ce village ne consistent que dans quelques morts ou blessés ; celles de Pérouchidja ne sont guère plus importantes ; et celles de Boyadjik s'élèvent à peu près à 80 hommes, comme il ressort des détails que nous allons donner ci-après. A part les soldats des troupes irrégulières et de la milice morts dans les différents combats, on ne sait pas encore au juste le nombre des Musulmans qui ont péri, soit dans les villages, soit dans les corps de garde et les stations incendiés au commencement de l'insurrection. Plusieurs commerçants Musulmans en voyage ont été en outre saisis et assassinés par les insurgés. Je suis d'avis que le nombre des Musulmans qui ont ainsi trouvé la mort

entre les mains des insurgés dépasse 400. Les hommes qui ont commis des assassinats avec préméditation sont aujourd'hui interrogés et jugés en audience publique ; ils recevront leur punition suivant la loi. D'autres individus qui ont pu se justifier de ces crimes sont mis en liberté sous caution.

Les assassins d'une vingtaine de Tzinghanes appartenant à la religion Musulmane ont avoué leur crime devant le Tribunal Mixte *ad hoc*. Ces pauvres gens avaient été amenés par force au village d'Avrat-Alan, où ils avaient été contraints de fabriquer des cercles de fer pour les canons en bois des insurgés, et divers autres objets ; puis ils ont été égorgés, les bras liés derrière, les insurgés considérant comme dangereux de les laisser vivre. Les prevenus ont avoué également dans leur interrogatoire qu'ils avaient tué "comme un chien" un Musulman en voyage, malgré ses prières qu'on lui laissât la vie sauve. Tout cela est constaté dans les procès-verbaux de l'interrogatoire.

Quant aux promoteurs du mouvement, nous avons eu des témoignages tendant à prouver que la rébellion a été l'œuvre des maîtres d'école et des popes des villages. Il a été constaté que les bourgs sus-mentionnés d'Avrat-Alan, d'Otloukkeuy, et de Brasdin, avaient été fortifiés par des retranchements faits en terre et en bois, et par d'autres travaux de défense ; que toute la population Chrétienne avait pris les armes ; que les retranchements étaient armés de canons improvisés d'un nouveaux genre, faits de bois dur, enlacés de cordes goudronnées et cerclés de fer, et qu'enfin on était allé jusqu'à confectionner des espèces de longues perches armées de fers tranchants en guise de baïonnettes, dont les femmes devaient se servir en cas de besoin. D'autre part, le fait que la plupart des villageois avaient antérieurement enfoui leurs effets les plus précieux sous la terre, qu'ils ont ensuite cultivée et ensemencée pour cacher toute trace, prouve que le mouvement insurrectionnel était préparé de longue main.

Passons maintenant aux événements de Batak-Keuy. Les habitants de ce village ont commencé par arrêter et tuer plusieurs commerçants de passage chez eux. Les Musulmans des villages sis aux alentours de Dospat-Balkan, à la nouvelle de ces méfaits, avaient dépêché sur les lieux le fils du nommé Ali-Agha pour s'enquérir de ce qui s'y passait. Ce dernier a été aussitôt arrêté à son tour par les insurgés. Cette nouvelle agression et le bruit des armements et des préparatifs qui se faisaient ostensiblement dans les dits villages contre les Musulmans étant parvenus à la connaissance de ceux-ci, ils se sont armés à la hâte et sont accourus vers ces villages pour protéger les innocents et pour prévenir une attaque dirigée contre eux-mêmes. Un notable Bulgare avait cependant, à force de prières et de supplications, réussi à arracher à la mort le fils d'Ali-Agha, et il avait obtenu sa mise en liberté. Le retour de celui-ci au milieu des siens causa une vive joie. Sur ces entrefaites, les Dospates, s'étant présenté pour demander la cause de ces désordres des villageois Bulgares, furent eux-mêmes reçus par des coups de fusil qui confirmèrent dès lors les Musulmans dans leurs appréhensions. Ils demandèrent aussitôt des secours en hommes et en munitions ; et, après avoir vainement exhorté les Bulgares à renoncer à leurs projets coupables qui déjà avaient fait plusieurs victimes parmi eux, ils ouvrirent enfin les hostilités en engageant le combat. Il est à remarquer que même alors ceux des Chrétiens qui ont demandé grâce ont été désarmés et épargnés ; mais les autres qui se sont réfugiés dans l'église en pierre du village, et qui ont persisté à continuer la lutte, ont porté l'exaspération des Musulmans à son comble. C'est alors que ceux-ci, pour les déloger de leur abri, ont mis le feu aux quelques batisses en bois qui environnaient l'église. Les Bulgares, comprenant enfin le danger qui les menaçait, quittèrent leur refuge, et un combat terrible s'engagea entre eux et les Musulmans. Il est malheureusement constaté que, pendant cette lutte sanglante, les pertes ont été considérables de part et d'autre relativement à la population de ce village qui s'élevait à 1,441 âmes.

A la pensée de tant de désastres et de ruines, on ne peut s'empêcher de maudire ceux qui, en semant la haine et la discorde parmi ces populations crédules et primitives, les ont poussées à de tels actes de désespoir et de cruauté. Le notable Bulgare dont la généreuse intervention avait sauvé les jours du fils d'Ali Agha, envisageant la gravité de la situation, avait passé, dès le début du combat, du côté des Musulmans avec toute sa famille. Les Dospates les ont mis en sécurité dans leurs villages et ont pourvu à leur entretien. Ils ont fait de même pour les enfants qui ont été trouvés abandonnés sans parents après le combat. Ils les ont recueillis et amenés dans les villages Musulmans. De là l'origine de la nouvelle à sensation qu'un grand nombre d'enfants avaient été réduits à l'esclavage par les Turcs. On sait, en effet, que, d'après les prescriptions de la Loi Musulmane, les veuves et les orphelins qui se trouvent sans appui doivent être adoptés et entretenus par l'autorité jusqu'à ce qu'ils puissent être

admis dans d'autres localités, quelques villageois Musulmans les ont donc amenés dans leurs villages et ont pourvu à leurs subsistance. Lorsque l'insurrection a été étouffée, ils ont été successivement renvoyés et réinstallés dans leurs foyers.

Parce que des manœuvres criminelles des ennemis jurés de la nation ont réussi à semer la discorde parmi les différentes populations du même pays, s'ensuit-il qu'une partie de cette population puisse impunément, à l'époque où nous vivons, réduire l'autre à l'esclavage? C'est-là une énormité qui n'a pas le sens commun! Il est fort probable, dans les circonstances dont il s'agit, qu'un petit nombre de femmes et d'enfants Chrétiens se trouvent encore, à l'heure qu'il est, dans des villages Musulmans où ils ont été recueillis par humanité et nullement amenés ni retenus comme esclaves. Peut-être ces malheureux qui sont restés sans gîte et sans appui s'y sont réfugiés eux-mêmes, et rendent-ils, en retour de l'hospitalité qu'ils reçoivent, les services domestiques dont ils sont capables. Ceux qui répandent ces bruits malveillants feraient assurément une meilleure action en informant les autorités qu'un enfant se trouve dans de telles conditions, dans un endroit quelconque, et il est certain que celles-ci s'empresseraient de le retirer et de le remettre à ses parents, ou, à défaut, à ses amis et coreligionnaires.

Quant à la défaite infligée aux insurgés de Boyadjik-Keuy, dépendant d'Islimié, voici la vérité à ce sujet: l'éloignement de ce village du foyer de l'insurrection l'avait empêché d'élever des retranchements et de faire des préparatifs de défense. Cependant les bourgs environnants, étant habités principalement par des Chrétiens, ceux-ci se proposaient d'en faire le centre de leurs réunions. D'un autre côté, les insurgés ayant fait leur apparition, et des émissaires venus de la Serbie par les Balkans ayant réussi à convaincre les habitants de Boyadji-Keuy, ces derniers, ainsi encouragés, empêchèrent les Musulmans de traverser leur village.

Hachen Effendi, Caïmacam de Yamboli, dépendant d'Islimié et situé près de Boyadji-Keuy, se rendit sur les lieux, accompagné de quelques zaptiés, afin de se rendre compte par lui-même de cette attitude hostile. L'accès du village lui fut interdit. Le Commandant de la division militaire qui se trouvait à Islimié fut aussitôt avisé de la mauvaise tournure que prenaient les choses, et se rendit à Boyadji-Keuy avec un bataillon et quelques volontaires. A son arrivée devant le village, quelques vieillards vinrent à sa rencontre, et il leur demanda les raisons pour lesquelles ils avaient empêché les voyageurs et principalement le Caïmacam de Yamboli de pénétrer chez eux, et pourquoi enfin ils se réunissaient toujours armés. Les vieillards répondirent qu'ils se rassemblaient parce qu'ils avaient peur et qu'ils étaient impuissants à faire entendre raison aux jeunes gens de leurs familles; sur quoi ils se retirèrent. Aussitôt après leur départ des coups de fusil furent tirés sur les soldats, et ordre a dû être donné d'attaquer le village.

Pendant l'action, la plupart des maisons brûlèrent, et les bestiaux qui s'y trouvaient se sauvèrent du côté de nos troupes qui les capturèrent; mais de là à prétendre que des 2,000 âmes qui composaient la population du village de Boyadji-Keuy, 50 seulement furent épargnés, il y a un abîme. Il est constaté que ce bruit provenait de rapports faits par la populace elle-même, et l'on sait combien les paysans sont toujours enclins à exagérer singulièrement les faits qui les touchent.

Suivant mes propres renseignements et les investigations auxquelles j'ai procédé, le nombre des Bulgares tués dans cette déplorable affaire peut varier entre 70 et 80 hommes tout au plus. Dans ce nombre il n'y a eu ni femmes, ni enfants, à l'exception toutefois d'une seule femme qui a été atteinte par une balle. Les villageois évaluent leurs pertes à 100 ou 110 individus; mais ils ne tiennent pas compte des fuyards qui se sont réfugiés ailleurs. Ainsi qu'il a été mentionné plus haut, les quelques enfants recueillis dans les villages Musulmans et Chrétiens des environs ont été par la suite rendus à leurs parents. On sait, d'ailleurs, que l'un d'entre eux a été confié à un membre Chrétien du Conseil de Yamboli.

Pour ce qui est des effets et des bestiaux qu'on prétend avoir été pillés, nous avons déjà expliqué que les Bulgares, ayant depuis longtemps médité un soulèvement, avaient enfoui tout ce qu'ils possédaient d'objets de valeur dans leurs jardins ou dans leurs champs qu'ils avaient ensuite pris soin d'ensemencer. Ceci est prouvé par le fait certain qu'ils ont eux-mêmes extrait ces objets après l'apaisement du mouvement insurrectionnel. Il est dès lors évident qu'ils ont dû cacher leur argent de la même manière. Les pertes qu'ils ont subies ne sauraient donc consister qu'en des objets mobiliers, des instruments aratoires, des bestiaux et des denrées alimentaires; mais comment ces hommes qui ont mis, pour la plupart, eux-mêmes le feu à leurs villages pouvaient-ils espérer ne rien perdre de ces objets? Les Musulmans dont les maisons ont été incendiées par les insurgés n'ont-ils pas tout perdu? Il n'en est pas moins

reconnu, toutefois, et nous devons malheureusement le constater, que ceux des villages comme Otlouk-keuy qui ont été occupés de vive force, ont été pillés par les paysans volontaires des environs.

En ce qui concerne la question des bestiaux, je dois faire remarquer qu'une partie du bétail disséminé dans les pâturages pendant l'insurrection avait été confiée à la garde de nos troupes, tandis qu'une autre partie est tombée entre les mains des indigènes et des Circassiens. Quelques bestiaux, appartenant aux paysans qui se trouvaient dans les localités dont les pâturages sont situés aux environs des villages envahis, ont été également enlevés ; mais, aussitôt que les autorités ont été informés de cette soustraction, elles ont envoyé des détachements de troupes et des gendarmes à cheval dans les villages soupçonnés de recéler les bestiaux enlevés, avec ordre de les reprendre de gré ou de force et de les rendre à leurs véritables propriétaires, ceux-ci eussent-ils même fait partie des insurgés qui avaient fait leur soumission. Tous les animaux trouvés dans la possession des ravisseurs et qui n'étaient point réclamés par leurs propriétaires étaient envoyés dans les troupeaux confiés à la garde de l'autorité pour être ensuite remis à ceux des héritiers des paysans morts dans la lutte qui pouvaient les réclamer à bon droit. Les populations avaient, d'ailleurs, été informées que tout avis donné à l'autorité de la confiscation de têtes de bétail au préjudice de leurs véritables propriétaires serait suivi de la reprise et de la remise immédiate de ce bétail à qui de droit. Grâce à ces dispositions arrêtées par les autorités Impériales, un nombre considérable d'animaux trouvés parmi les troupeaux confiés à la garde des préposés, ou bien en la possession d'individus qui se les étaient appropriés, ont pu être restitués à leurs propriétaires.

Il est superflu de le répéter, le mouvement insurrectionnel qui a éclaté vers la fin d'Avril, n'ayant pas duré longtemps, les récoltes heureusement n'ont pas dû en souffrir. Grâce à Dieu, cette année l'agriculture dans cette contrée est très-favorisée ; et le blé, le foin et le seigle sont en pleine production. Les villageois étant rentrés dans leurs foyers, la récolte a déjà commencé et les produits sont transportés sur les aires. Les cultures de maïs sont dans de bonnes conditions. Tous les habitants compromis qui témoignent de leur repentir sont autorisés à retourner dans leurs foyers. Ceux dont les maisons ont été brûlées se sont empressés de reconstruire des huttes provisoires dans lesquelles ils s'abritent. Cependant, comme ce sont eux qui s'étaient faits instruments d'incitations étrangères et qui avaient les premiers manifesté leur haine contre les Musulmans, ils ne sont pas encore complètement convaincus de l'attitude pacifique de ces derniers. Pourtant cet état de suspicion et d'hésitation réciproques tend à se dissiper tous les jours d'avantage. Le Gouvernement Impérial, de son côté, fait tous ses efforts pour rétablir la confiance dans les esprits des deux parties et le calme dans les cœurs. Il s'occupe avec sollicitude de ceux qui ont souffert et qui réclament son assistance.

Quelques rapports de Consuls et certains journaux font allusion aux sentiments de haine et de mépris qui subsistent encore chez les paysans Musulmans contre leurs concitoyens Bulgares ; mais on oublie de se rendre compte d'une situation qui a menacé de mettre à feu et à sang la Bulgarie tout entière. Dans quel pays du monde, où la guerre civile a porté ses ravages et a soulevé à ce point les passions populaires, voit-on les combattants de la veille se réconcilier le lendemain ? Quel est l'homme qui peut voir d'un œil confiant l'ennemi, qui, après avoir porté atteinte à sa vie, à son bien, et à son honneur, a fait l'aveu public de ses sentiments d'hostilité devant ses juges eux-mêmes ? La population Musulmane, je le répète, savait à l'avance que les insurgés se proposaient de mettre le feu partout et de se livrer au massacre ; néanmoins, lorsque les incendies se déclaraient une nuit sur plusieurs points de Philippopoli et dans les districts avoisinants de Tatar-Bazardjik, les Musulmans, au lieu de se laisser entraîner à des excès par le sentiment du danger et celui de la légitime défense, ne se sont préoccupés que d'une chose, le salut de la patrie, et la sauvegarde de l'ordre public. Les Bulgares, qu'ils considéraient comme leurs frères et avec lesquels ils vivaient depuis tant d'années en parfait accord, se déclarent tout-à-coup leurs ennemis, se livrent contre eux aux dernières violences, et ne craignent pas de confesser plus tard que leur but était de les faire tomber tous sous leurs coups. Qu'y-a-t-il d'étrange après cela qu'il subsiste encore dans le cœur de ces populations un germe de haine et méfiance qui ne peut disparaître que lentement et à la longue ?

Personne, si ce n'est les ennemis implacables de ce pays. ne saurait considérer une pareille situation sans une profond sentiment de tristesse ; mais, de même qu'une blessure ne peut se cicatriser du jour au lendemain, de même il faut attendre de l'œuvre du temps et des efforts de toute nature qui seront employés pour atteindre ce but, que les animosités se dissipent et que les ferments de vengeance s'apaisent.

L'attitude des criminels Bulgares devant les Tribunaux Mixtes n'est point faite, il faut bien le dire, pour rassurer les Musulmans. Leurs aveux et leur manière arrogante de dévoiler leurs plans ne respirent point le repentir, ni même le regret; mais on sait heureusement combien la nation Bulgare tout entière désavoue ce langage et réprouve cette attitude hautaine que provoque le sourire des Musulmans. Les autorités Impériales font, d'ailleurs, tout leur possible pour ramener la concorde parmi ces populations, et pour mettre une prompte fin aux causes accidentelles que les ont divisées."

[For Translation, see page 34.]

No. 18.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received July* 29.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 14, 1876.

SINCE the suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection few days passed without my urging upon the Porte the necessity of taking measures for putting an end to the excesses that were being committed, and previous to the receipt of your Lordship's telegrams on this subject I had directed Mr. Sandison to repeat my former representations in very forcible terms.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of his report upon executing them.

I wish it were possible for me to accept the denial of Midhat Pasha that outrages had been committed upon Bulgarian women, but the testimony of there having been many such instances is far too strong to be resisted.

There is more to be said for the distinction made by his Highness between the acts of the Bashi-Bazouks called out by the Government and those of the bands of Mahomedans who took arms to defend themselves from the attack of the insurgents, and who may have been guilty of atrocities in revenging those to which their countrymen had been exposed.

I have communicated to Safvet Pasha such particulars as seemed to be tolerably authenticated, with the names of individuals represented as having taken part in acts of oppresion, earnestly urging that if the charges can be brought home to them the Porte should mark its sense of these proceedings in a manner to relieve it from the suspicion of indifference to which it is now exposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Mr. Sandison to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Therapia, July* 11, 1876.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I mentioned to Midhat Pasha the reports which had reached Europe respecting the excesses and cruelties committed by the Bashi-Bazouks and the regular troops during the insurrection in Bulgaria. First, with regard to the regulars, his Highness desired me to assure your Excellency that there is no ground whatever for complaining of their conduct on the occasion, but that, from reports received at the Porte from the Imperial Commissioners specially deputed to inquire into these excesses, it was difficult to say as much of the Circassian irregulars, who, though guilty of various acts of plunder, had not indulged in them to the extent which is represented by the enemies of Turkey, who go on exaggerating matters, particularly as regards the Bulgarian women and girls supposed to have been sold into slavery.

This his Highness emphatically denies, but admits the fact of large quantities of cattle having been carried off by the Circassians, which, however, are now being recovered through the efforts of the Commissioners, and duly restored to the parties who claim them.

Now with regard to the general question of Bashi-Bazouks, his Highness thinks it but fair that some distinction should be made between those actually employed by the Government in certain instances, and such portions of the Mussulman peasantry, which, taking fright at the threatening attitude of the Bulgarians, naturally enough constituted themselves into armed bodies in self defence.

Thus they assumed the character of authorized Bashi-Bazouk corps, and indulged in excesses which the Government had neither the power nor opportunity of checking, when all its available forces were fully engaged in putting down the alarming insurrection in Bulgaria.

Cruelties have been committed, said his Highness, but the Bulgarians first began perpetrating them, most unheard-of atrocities having been practised on innocent Turkish women, children, and men. I may here quote the testimony of the artist employed by the "Illustrated London News," who, in his travels through Bulgaria, came across the body of a Turk who had been impaled and roasted by the Bulgarians. Such acts could not but lead to reprisals, and to the consequent destruction of many thousand lives, as well as of a large number of villages, amongst which must also be included a good many Mussulman ones.

As to the violation of women and girls, his Highness observed that, anybody sufficiently acquainted with the notions of the Turks in general on the subject of the respect due to woman-kind, will readily admit that rape is not one of the weak points of their character, particularly in Albania, where, talking from my own knowledge of the fact, no Albanian can possibly escape the general contempt of his fellow-countrymen if ever found guilty of such an act.

Having also spoken to Safvet Pasha on the subject of the excesses in question, I beg to inclose herewith in reply an extract of a letter received by his Excellency from a Roman Catholic gentleman connected with one of the leading Vienna papers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Letter from Philippopoli to Safvet Pasha.

(Extract.) *Philippopoli, le 27 Juin*, 1876.

LE dépit de ceux dont les plans subversifs furent déjoués par la prompte répression de la revolte éclatée dans ces parages se manifeste par un tissu de mensonges et de calomnies lancés contre ceux qui ont contribué le plus à apaiser le pays.

Le drogman du Consulat de Russie, natif, comme son chef, d'Avratalon, jette la pierre tout d'abord à son Excellence Ackif Pacha, parcequ'il se serait refusé, au commencement, d'envoyer les secours qu'Aziz Pacha avait demandés, et parceque plus tard il avait fait envahir le caza par des Circassiens et des Bashi-Bozouks, qui n'ont fait, ajoute-t-on, que piller, incendier, et commettre les massacres les plus hideux. De son côté le Prince Tzeretelew, Second Secrétaire de l'Ambassade, gérant par intérim le Consulat de Russie à Andrinople, et que j'ai rencontré ici au retour d'une excursion qu'il aurait dû faire à Bellona, raconte qu'il a vu partout des horreurs incroyables ; les habitants d'un village incendié auxquels les Bashi-Bozouks aidés par les réguliers et la gendarmerie auraient pris biens et bestiaux, qui se meurent de faim, et auxquels les autorités défendent de porter le moindre secours.

Chaque deux jours on débite ici que les Chrétiens vont être massacrés la nuit, et que la ville et les environs vont être saccagés. Au dire de ces messieurs, l'autorité et ses organes excitent le fanatisme religieux afin d'extirper tout ce qu'il y a de Bulgare, et Constantinople applaudirait et laisserait faire !

Pour qui ne connaît pas la tactique de ces gens, il se croirait au milieu d'un pays de sauvages ; ces messieurs ne se lassent pas d'inventer des choses incroyables et de les propager par des complaisants journaux. Quant à moi j'ai été charmé de me trouver face à face avec ces colporteurs de nouvelles fausses ou dénaturées, et, tout en gardant le ton d'un observateur impartial, je ne me suis pas gêné de redresser les assertions erronées et de refuter les fausses nouvelles de mes interlocuteurs.

Le fanatisme a éclaté d'abord chez les Bulgares, qui ont débuté par massacrer les Musulmans jusqu'aux femmes, vieillards, et enfants dans le but avoué de les exterminer tous.

Les Bulgares ont brûlé eux-mêmes leurs villages, et avant de parler des dévastations et des cruautés commises par les Bashi-Bozouks, il faut énumérer les actes barbares perpétrés par les insurgés sur ordre de leurs chefs et de leurs instigateurs. Dès que les Ministres actuels arrivèrent au pouvoir, des troupes régulières parurent sur les lieux et le désordre fut arrêté.

L'état déplorable du pays est causé par l'insurrection ; le Gouvernement actuel l'a reprimée et non pas provoquée ; des bruits répandus et constamment renouvelés de

massacres des Chrétiens ne sont colportés qu'en vue de semer et d'entretenir de nouveau la méfiance, la terreur, et l'esprit d'antagonisme d'où l'on espère faire naître de nouveaux désordres.

Le mutessarif fait son devoir et veille avec une activité remarquable pour son âge; Salim Effendi est infatigable et mène les investigations auxquels j'ai assisté avec un calme et un esprit de justice qui méritent d'être signalés.

Je me borne pour aujourd'hui à ces peu de lignes qui retracent un tableaux véridique et consciencieux de l'état de choses. Je prie votre Excellence d'en exposer le contenu à leurs Altesses le Grand Vizier et le Président du Conseil d'Etat. Le tout repose sur une observation impartiale des faits, sur la pure vérité et sur l'indépendance absolue de ma position. Je pense que le Gouvernement Impérial y puisera un matériel suffisant pour combattre avec plein succès les insinuations malveillantes que je prévois de certains côtés.

(Translation.)

(Extract.) *Philippopoli, June* 27, 1876.

THE rage of those whose seditious plans were baffled by the prompt suppression of the revolt which broke out in these districts appears in a tissue of lies and slanders launched at those who have most contributed to the pacification of the country.

The Dragoman of the Russian Consulate, like his superior, a native of Avratalon, first attacks his Excellency Ackif Pasha, because he refused, at the beginning of the revolt, to send the succour asked for by Aziz Pasha, and because later he caused the caza to be invaded by Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, who, he adds, have done nothing but pillage, burn, and commit the most frightful massacres. On his side Prince Tzeretelew, Second Secretary of the Embassy, and in charge *ad interim* of the Russian Consulate at Adrianople, whom I met here returning from a trip he had to make to Bellona, relates that he saw everywhere incredible horrors; the inhabitants of one of the burnt villages from whom the Bashi-Bazouks, aided by the regular troops and police, had taken property and cattle, dying of hunger, and the authorities had forbidden the least help to be given to them.

Every other day a rumour is spread here that the Christians are going to be massacred during the night, and that the town and neighbourhood are going to be pillaged. According to these gentlemen the authorities and their organs stir up religious fanaticism in order to extirpate every Bulgarian that there is, and Constantinople would applaud their conduct and do nothing.

Any one who did not understand these men's method of proceeding would think himself in the midst of a country of savages; these gentlemen are never weary of inventing incredible rumours, and spreading them by means of obliging journals. For my part I was delighted to find myself face to face with the hawkers of false or absurd news, and while preserving the bearing of an impartial observer, I have not troubled myself to correct erroneous assertions and to refute the incorrect news brought by those conversing with me.

Fanaticism broke out at first among the Bulgarians, whose first step was to massacre the Mussulmans, even the women, old men and children, with the avowed intention of exterminating them all.

The Bulgarians themselves burnt their villages, and before speaking of the havoc and cruelty committed by the Bashi-Bazouks, we must reckon up the barbarous acts perpetrated by the insurgents at the order of their Chiefs and instigators. Since the accession to power of the present Ministers regular troops appeared in the district, and the disorders were checked.

The deplorable condition of the country is caused by the insurrection. The present Government has suppressed it, and not provoked it; the rumours of massacres of Christians which are spread and constantly renewed are only hawked about with a view to sow and to foment afresh distrust, terror, and that spirit of antagonism by means of which they hope to give rise to fresh disorders.

The Mutessarif does his duty, and maintains a vigilance remarkable in one of his age. Salim Effendi is indefatigable, and conducted the trials at which I have been present with a calmness and a spirit of justice deserving of special commendation.

I confine myself for the present to these few lines, which give a scrupulously exact picture of the state of things. I beg your Excellency to report the contents to their Highnesses the Grand Vizer and the President of the Council of State. The whole rests on an impartial observation of the facts of the case, on the strict truth of the statements, and on the complete independence of my position. I think the Imperial Government will

draw from it quite sufficient to combat with complete success the malicious insinuations which I foresee will be made from certain quarters.

No. 19.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 19, 1876.*

AS directed by your Lordship, I have dispatched Mr. Baring to inquire into the atrocities said to be going on in Bulgaria; and I learn from a despatch received last night that Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis left Adrianople under your Lordship's instructions two days ago on a similar mission.

Safvet Pasha expressed himself as much pleased that Her Majesty's Government had taken measures to ascertain the truth of the statements which are being circulated as regards the treatment of the Bulgarians; for while the Porte is convinced that they are greatly exaggerated, it is also aware that the reports of the authorities are at least open to suspicion, and Mr. Baring has been furnished with letters to the Governor and Imperial Commissioner, directing them to afford him every facility in prosecuting his inquiry.

The statements in the "Daily News" have been taken principally from information furnished by the American missionaries; and, before setting out, Mr. Baring went, by my direction, to those gentlemen, and obtained from them a Memorandum of all the facts with which they are acquainted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 20.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 19, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople respecting atrocities in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Adrianople, July 9, 1876.*

DOUBTLESS your Excellency is aware of the presence in this province of Edib Effendi, charged with a conciliatory mission to Turks and Bulgarians.

I learn that this functionary has already discharged his duties, and on Monday last, the 3rd instant, he addressed a mixed audience of Mussulmans and Christians, in terms which are represented to have made little impression on the former.

I am told that he expressed to Bulgarian notables of Philippopoli his astonishment at the fact that so few atrocities were committed by his countrymen during the recent troubles, considering the great excitement produced among them by the Bulgarian movement.

What are the horrors he expected to witness it is difficult to understand.

Great complaints are made with respect to the harshness of the authorities in collecting the taxes, even in those districts which have been devastated by the Bashi-Bazouks; and the inhabitants of the village of Brestovitz, consisting of some 200 houses at the foot of the Rhodope Mountains, were, as I learn, called upon by five zaptiehs, who demanded immediate payment by the villagers of 21,000 piastres, due to the Treasury for this year's emlak (property and income tax). On the men's remonstrating that the village had been pillaged by the Pomaks, and that they were unable for the present to pay the whole amount, they were insulted by the zaptiehs, and told that they were all rebels,

as they had ample means to buy shot and powder, but could no find money for the Padishah.

Several of them were then shut up in a room and beaten by one of the zaptiehs until compelled to pay the whole amount the following day.

A poor Greek rayah told me yesterday that on Monday last he and his companion purchased twenty-two okes of tobacco and other stores at Eski-Zahra for retail in Hermanly; that on the road he sold five okes, and on reaching Segmanly the Custom-house official, Souleiman Effendi, finding only seventeen okes, accused his companion of smuggling, and had him arrested, but offered to release him on payment of 6 liras, and ultimately came down to 3 liras. In vain the poor man pleaded poverty, and exhibited his license to sell; but failing to make the payment demanded he was put in irons and sent off to prison at Hankoi.

I am informed that upwards of 200 prisoners, taken up in consequence of the late troubles, have been set at liberty; but as yet not one of the respectable Bulgarians of Philippopoli, who, as I reported on a former occasion, are apprehended on the most superficial denunciations, has been released.

What is more disgraceful than this long detention in prison is the torture to which I am informed some of these innocent men are subjected, in order to compel them to make denunciations against the Bulgarian Bishops of Philippopoli and other respectable persons.

Among those arrested in Adrianople the last few days are George Kara-Michael, a man of note, and a member of the Idaré Medjliss, and Apostoli Khamoski, a member of the Medjliss-Khokiuk; both are Bulgarians.

They have been imprisoned; the former for declining to sign an address, along with others, to the Governor-General, denying the existence of disorders in this Province; as regards the latter, I do not learn the cause of his arrest.

Judicial torture, as your Excellency is aware, is a common practice in connection with judicial proceedings now going on against Bulgarian political prisoners.

I am told that a victim from whom certain revelations are desired, is either chained by the neck to the window of the prison and beaten by all comers, zaptiehs or common criminals, or is confined in a dark, narrow cell, rendering rest or sleep impossible, and where human nature seldom withstands the temptation of making confessions or disclosures, the value of which, extorted by torture, will be readily understood by enlightened minds.

I may be able to furnish your Excellency with all the details of a well-authenticated case of this nature by the sufferer himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

No. 21.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 29.

My Lord, *Rustchuk, July 22, 1876.*

ON the 15th instant I received from Her Majesty's Ambassador a telegram, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, together with my reply thereto by post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Reade.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July 15, 1876.*

IT is asserted in the English newspapers that in the district of Tatar Bazardjik the heads of murdered women and children are paraded by cartloads, and that men are sold publicly as articles of traffic.

Report to me whether you know of any such proceedings, and also if the Circassians in your vilayet continue to commit atrocities.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Consul Reade to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Rustchuk, July* 19, 1876.

ON the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 15th instant, not being aware of what was alleged respecting the Tatar Bazardjik district, and although it is not in this vilayet, and distantly situated from this, I endeavoured to find some one here who might give me some reliable intelligence or opinion thereon, and I succeeded in meeting with a Bulgarian Christian who can be relied upon, and who has resided several years at the place, and who is acquainted with others who come and go between this and Tatar Bazardjik.

He told me that had the story related been true he thinks he would certainly have heard of it.

That both the parading of the heads and the selling of the men are extremely improbable for various and obvious reasons which he gave me.

He said he had, nevertheless, heard of great acts of cruelty in the district in question during the late insurrection.

He, moreover, related to me a case that he had heard of and which he knew to be a fact:—

Some Bulgarian insurgents one day seized two Mussulman women whose breasts they cut off and then put them to death.

The Mussulmans having heard of this, and having found the bodies, went off in search of the perpetrators; but not finding them, they seized a number of Bulgarian women whom they met and cut their throats over the bodies of the two murdered Mussulman women.

The story of the parading of the heads he considered possible, but highly improbable. As to the alleged sale of men, he said that was beyond all doubt untrue for various and obvious reasons.

I have just heard the affair of Chevket Pasha, at Boyadjik, on the other side of the Balkans, as related by a Prussian Engineer in the Government service here, who was close to the spot when it took place, and whose statement almost entirely agrees with that given in the "Daily News" of the 8th instant. This officer, knowing the real facts of the case, says he never was so thunderstruck as when he heard that Chevket Pasha had been decorated and promoted. He further says he saw the Commissioner sent afterwards by the Porte to investigate the matter, who said to him that the whole of the villagers had not been massacred, but only 700 (out of 1,300), The Commissioner said very little else, and appeared extremely pensive, which the engineer said he did not wonder at, from what he had found.

After this the engineer returned to Shunla in company with a high Ottoman functionary whom he did not wish to name, and who on the way and in his presence asked the zaptiehs who accompanied them if they had profited by the rising to diminish the number of Bulgarians. They replied not, as in their district everything had been quite quiet. He then said, "You ought to have done so, and you would have rendered a service to the Government."

I have given your Excellency this, having heard it from an impartial person, and who, if anything, would rather be in favour of the Porte, by whom he is employed.

As regards the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks in this vilayet, I have not of late heard much against them. We are, however, receiving very unfavourable rumours about their doings on the frontier, where it appears they are mostly now collected.

Public confidence, however, is not by any means yet re-established, as in many parts Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians are still to be found armed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 22.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 30, 1876.

I HAVE received this evening from Mr. Baring a report, of which the following is the substance:—

500 cattle and horses had been carried off by the Circassians in the district of Yeuk.

The village of Devent, consisting of 800 houses, had been entirely burnt, the inhabitants at the beginning of the insurrection having murdered the Turkish police and thrown up fortifications. Women had been outraged at a village at the foot of the Balkans, but the place had been saved from being sacked by the Mudir and a person in charge of the mosque.

At the place where it was said that forty girls had been burnt in a barn no one knew anything of the story. Mr. Baring believed it to be a pure invention. Many women were said to have been outraged and robbed by Bashi-Bazouks, but he could not discover that any had been killed.

The inhabitants at another village stated that at the beginning of the insurrection they were told by the priest and the schoolmaster that the Turks were advancing, that they must leave their village or they would be killed by the Turks, and that those who objected were driven out by force. The Mussulmans who happened to be there were murdered; their number was differently estimated at twelve and thirty-two; the village was then set on fire. The Mussulmans in the neighbourhood, seeing part of the village in flames, went there and pillaged and burnt the remaining houses.

The authorities have large quantities of cattle and sheep in their hands, and are making arrangements to discover the owners; but the villagers, as the Mussulmans are all armed, and they are without arms, fear, Mr. Baring says, to go to make their claims.

Within the last few days 200 prisoners at Philippopoli have been set at liberty, and more are to be immediately released.

No. 23.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

My Lord, *Adrianople, July* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, instructing me to proceed to Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, and elsewhere to inquire into the truth of reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government that atrocities have been committed by the Turkish irregular troops on the Christian population of Bulgaria, and to acquaint your Lordship that I start on this mission to-morrow morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

No. 24.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Baring, reporting his arrival at Philippopoli, and his interview with the Governor-General of the province.

A letter, of which I likewise inclose a copy, has appeared in the "Levant Herald," containing some interesting details as to the origin of the late Bulgarian insurrection, and to some extent justifying the severe measures which attended its suppression.

I have reason to believe that the credulity of the correspondent of the "Daily News," whose letter on the subject of the Bulgarian atrocities attracted so much attention in England, has been imposed upon by two Bulgarians, relatives of one of the presumed ringleaders of the revolt, inhabiting Philippopoli.

One of these was for a time editor of a Bulgarian journal printed at Constantinople, and it is evident that information derived from such a source can only be regarded as untrustworthy.

I have, &c.
(For Sir Henry Elliot),
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, July* 20, 1876.

ON arriving at Adrianople last night I found that the Vali had left for this place last Monday in consequence of some outrages committed by Bashi-Bazouks at Yeni Mahalli in the new district of Hass Keui, and that Kiani Pasha had also come on here. I consequently left Adrianople this morning, and on my arrival here, late in the afternoon, called upon Akif Pasha, who returns to Adrianople to morrow.

In the course of conversation his Excellency promised to give me every facility in prosecuting such inquiries as I should have to make. It was not the wish, he said, of the

authorities that the truth should be hidden; atrocities had no doubt been committed by the Bashi-Bazouks, but he declared that they had been grossly exaggerated, and that an impartial investigation would show that the Bulgarians had been guilty of crimes just as great as those which are laid to the charge of the Mussulmans.

The trials of the accused Bulgarians were being carried on as rapidly as was compatible with the interests of justice; there were now between 800 and 900 persons in confinement, and he did not doubt the fact that there had been some crowding, as the prisons of the town were naturally small. At one time 2,000 persons were confined in them.

His Excellency absolutely denied that women and children had been sold in any portion of his vilayet, and, as far as this district and that of Tatar Bazardjik are concerned, his statement is borne out by that of other persons with whom I have spoken on the subject here.

In the affair of Yeni Mahalli the Vali seems to have acted with promptitude; a number of Bashi-Bazouks were arrested and their Bimbashi, a man of notorious bad character, was tried, sentenced, and executed all in one day.

All along the line I heard complaints of the behaviour of the Circassians on their way to the seat of war, and it was also stated to me that the Bulgarian villagers received nightly visits from their Mussulman neighbours, who carried off everything they could lay hands on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. BARING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of July 21, 1876.

THE REVOLT IN BULGARIA.—HISTORICAL RETROSPECT.

[From our Special Commissioner.]

(I.)

Tatar-Bazardjik, July 15, 1876.

WHEN in Constantinople I was warned not to show myself in this neighbourhood, infested, as I was told it was, by bands of undisciplined Bashi-Bazouks and savage Circassians, devastating and pillaging on every side, massacring friends and foes without pity or discernment. What I was told in Pera on this subject was enough to make one's hair bristle up and one's blood run cold. Nevertheless, miscreant that I am, cultivating the love of adventure in an incorrigible spirit of contradiction and of scepticism, the more they tried to frighten me the more my curiosity outweighed my apprehensions, and the more my *amour-propre* urged me to confront the dangers I heard of. I stood in need of emotion to console me for the deceptions I had experienced in Pera, where the predictions of a massacre had been gloriously belied through the agency of a pretorian guard, hurriedly recruited from among the dark-browed sons of the Black Mountain. Who could ever have supposed that these mettlesome, but all ungentle subjects of Prince Nicholas, with their brethren and their consorts, were to have been the saviours of European civilization, menaced as it was by the Softas, who had turned Mahmoud adrift! This shows how lamentably these interesting mountaineers are misunderstood and calumniated. It is only given to the Russian to know and duly to value them. Moreover, they have yet many things to learn from them. See, for instance, what an opportunity Mouravieff lost in not erecting in the royal garden of Warsaw a monumental pile of Polish skulls which might have been full a hundred feet higher than the celebrated tower of Turkish skulls which adorns Cettigné! What hundreds of thousands of pocket-handkerchiefs would have been saved, too, if, Black-Mountain fashion, all the Siberian pilgrims had been previously relieved of their noses!

This Peninsula of the Balkans contains more than one people capable of awakening sympathy, love, and solicitude in the cold breast of Russia. The Bulgarians are at least as interesting as the Montenegrins and the Servians. Historians have said that their origin is Turkish, but Russians affirm that they are Slavs nevertheless, because of the tongue they speak and of their long sojourn on the banks of the Volga. Well, let the Russians have it so. What has origin to do with nationality? Why, we should all be Chinese if that principle were admitted. Were not Adam and Eve fugitives from the Court of Pekin, driven from the Celestial Empire for disregard of the marriage laws?

The Bulgarians are, therefore, Slavs; but they are industrious, peaceful, and little

given to drink. They are so ignorant that they do not even know what Panslavism means though some charitable souls have done their best to instil the notion, and consequences resulting from it, into their minds. Now, revolt against any authority save that of the Czar, is one of the first theories of Panslavism, and the way in which it must be carried on is an art which it requires no small tuition to learn.

The Bulgarian insurrection is not, then, the work of a day; it has long and patiently been prepared by diligent efforts and manifold, skilful combinations. Some twenty years ago, this thrifty, sober, and industrious people lived peacefully among the Turks, well satisfied with laying out in the soil their little savings. They grumbled at the exactions of the Christian tithe-farmers, who not unfrequently claimed more than their due, but still more at the escheats and fines extorted by the clergy. Still no longing for independence was felt by them. Religion was resorted to in order to instil into their minds the novel idea of nationality. But the influence of the clergy could not be brought to bear, so long as the Bulgarians were dependent on the Greek Patriarchate of Constantinople. To this end a Bulgarian national, autonomous church was created. The spirit of independence was taught in the schools by men brought up for the most part in a Bulgarian school established at Odessa, at the expense of the Russian Government, and in which young men were initiated in the theories of Panslavism and the mysteries of the various Russian and Prague Committees. At the same time, emissaries, under all manner of disguise, scoured the country, preaching up the notion of a large Slav Empire, under the shield of Muscovite omnipotence. Now and then petty revolts, whose failure was nothing less than sure, were attempted, in order to rouse the passions, foster hatred and hope, form leading men, and keep every one in exercise. The Turkish Government, under such circumstances, always granted, in the name of humanity and civilization, concessions, which never seemed to meet the growing aspirations of the people. Thus were the seeds of discontent and revolt gradually sown among them.

And now, when all was ripe, it was deemed that a more favourable opportunity for a general revolution could not offer than when the Turkish Government had its hands full with the suppression of the revolt in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and with the menacing attitude of Montenegro and Servia.

In the month of February numerous emissaries appeared in various districts on both sides of the Balkans. Their mission was to excite the people in demanding such concessions of the Porte as it could not grant without implicating its dignity, and abdicating its sovereign rights. At the same time, owing to the carelessness of the Government, then under Mahmoud's sway, great quantities of weapons were introduced into these localities. The complications with Montenegro and Servia grew daily more and more serious, and the emissaries, eager to reap the fruit of their work, persuaded the committees to go ever beyond the above-stated demands, the refusal of which was to be the plausible pretext for a raising of soldiers, and the beginning of hostilities. The greater part of Bulgaria and of the vilayet of Adrianople were then unfurnished with troops, for they had all been ordered to the Servian frontier.

The insurrection, planned long beforehand, was then carried into effect. Twenty military leading men were each sent to a special district, and since the month of March the future revolutionary army-lists were drawn out. The papers seized on the insurgents, and which are at present at the Special Courts of Justice established at Adrianople, Philippopoli, Slimnia, and other localities, bear testimony to the fact that the insurrection has been planned and worked out by able and experienced men, whose administrative and military knowledge is far beyond the compass of the poor ignorant Bulgarian population. The letters of Bulgarians, moreover, always bear their signatures, while the papers, regulations, and letters of the former contain, in lieu of signature, the words "Those whom you know," with the Central Committee seal affixed to them.

According to the information derived from these papers and the prisoners, the revolution was to have broken out on the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ of May, on every point of ground of the Danube and Adrianople vilayet. The cities of Adrianople, Philippopoli, Tatar-Bazardjik, Slimnia, and other large places, as well as the large railway-bridge to Soulé-Bourgas, were to have been burnt. All communication by rail between Adrianople and Philippopoli, and by wire to the capital, were to have been cut off. Special agents had been appointed to set fire to various parts of the towns on the same day, and in order to gain access into Turkish quarters, Bulgarians entered the service of Turkish families in the capacity of grooms. Philippopoli was to have been set on fire in 80 different places, and Adrianople in 150. Mussulmans offering any resistance, policemen, mudirs, suspicious officials, as well as refractory Christians, with their wives and children, were to be killed without mercy. The first glimmer of the conflagration was to have been the signal for the Bulgarians to march in troops to the burning towns, and slay all the Mussulmans

in the affray. The tchorbadjis of the Christian villages and quarters, the pappas and schoolmasters, had been instructed to tell the inhabitants and youth of the country that the hour of deliverance had struck at last, and that Russian troops in large numbers were hiding in the Balkans, ready to come to their help, at a moment's notice. The pappas were to give out that the struggle would not last beyond four days, and that all those who fell for the sacred cause would rise again from the dead after the lapse of forty days. The signal was to proceed from the caza of Tatar-Bazardjik, in which lie, close to the mountains, the large Christian villages of Otlouk-keui and Avrantalan, the birthplace of M. Gheroff, the Russian Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, and of his interpreter, M. Tchelizi. A certain Ghiorghi Berino, who gave himself the name of Benkowsky, had been sent out to this caza as chief man of the district, with the title of Woywode. He was helped in the discharge of his various avocations by a certain Kaplitchkoff, formerly station-master at Bellova, and by an individual called Peto Wankoff, who gave himself out as Panayotti Wosoff.

The effervescence had reached its highest pitch, when the approaching departure from Tatar-Bazardjik of some ten policemen was announced. They were to proceed to Otlouk-keui for the gathering of taxes. Benkowski, Ghiorghi, Ikonoff, Ghiorghi Nikowski, and Peto Wankoff, who were there, fancied themselves betrayed, and on the point of being apprehended. A Council was forthwith assembled at Meczga, and the breaking out of the revolt was fixed for the day after the morrow, $\frac{\text{May 20}}{\text{June 2}}$, by the Deputies for Roslouk, Derbend, Peroustizza, Avrantalan, Bazardjik, Braczkowa, Philippopoli, and Petrico, who were present. Orders were accordingly given to the inhabitants of Avrantalan, Carlovo, Philippopoli, Bazardjik, Izladi, Iktrtinan, and Sofia. But these orders, issued by Bulgarian leaders, were incomplete and confused; the able hands which had so admirably schemed the whole plot seemed to be missing; there also was a singular lack of discipline. Thus of the sixteen men who had been entrusted with the burning of town of Philippopoli, nine had deserted. The 5,000 or 6,000 Bulgarians who were ranged in échelons at five hours' distance from the town, waiting for the first flare of the flames in order to rush into the city, grew frightened at not seeing them, and fancying the plot discovered by the authorities, made for the mountains. Some of the inhabitants of the Christian villages, after killing the few Mussulmans who happened to be there, sought shelter in the Church, and shut themselves up in it, while others, setting on fire the empty villages which they came by, fled in the direction of the Balkans. Benko and the other under-agents who had been lost sight of had bent their course, the former towards Sofia, where a few days later he was cut to pieces by the Bashi-Bazouks, and the others towards Berkowatz and other localities in the district of Widdin. The panic had wildly spread, and the disorder of their ranks was unspeakable.

(II.)

In the meantime, how were the Government officials engaged? Aziz Pasha, the Mutessarif of Philippopoli, having been informed of the plot, gave notice to the vali, and demanded a military force. But Adrianople was at that time unprovided with troops. The Governor-General, Akif Pasha, telegraphed at once to Constantinople, pointing out the danger, and demanding reinforcements, which Mahmoud Pasha, then Grand Vizier, repeatedly refused. He had been given to understand that these reports were false, and that Akif Pasha was himself the chief abettor of the disturbances, with a view of casting the blame upon the Central Government. Thus was assistance from the capital refused, and the only quarter from which it could be expected was from the troops cantoned around Servia, and whose recall had been promised by the Grand Vizier, in proof that no cause for anxiety existed there. At the outbreak of the disturbances, all Mussulmans and Circassians were, therefore, ordered by Akif Pasha to take up arms. Some thousands were sent to the most threatened villages, whilst the others were entrusted with the undisturbed parts of the vilayet. The Mussulman population was wild with terror at the news of the massacre of the Turks and the destruction of their villages, and came in from Bazardjik. The recall of Akif Pasha came next: the town and district remained without a Governor, and the panic of the inhabitants at this new emergency knew no bounds. Mussulmans sought shelter with Christians, and Christians took refuge in Mussulman houses. The towns were rescued, but the insurgents were attacked and pursued by the Bashi-Bazouks in the outskirts, and after a few days' desperate and bloody fighting, were dispersed and taken prisoners. Great numbers threw away their weapons, and made for the fields and mountains. It was a fearful rout, in which the Bulgarians, enraged at having been deluded by false promises, killed the

would-be apostles of their independence. Many a schoolmaster and pope fell victims to their blows.

The Turkish Government has been greatly blamed for employing, in the suppression of the insurrection, irregulars and Circassians, whose acts of ferocity and barbarism have, it is alleged, exceeded everything hitherto known or heard of. These accusations seem to me devoid of the degree of truth and weight which is given them ; and public opinion should be slow in implicitly believing gratuitous exaggerations, prompted by the spiteful feeling which the unexpected repression of the revolt has elicited.

The Bulgarian revolt is only one link in the chain of the great conspiracy, which had been skilfully prepared for the last twenty years, with a view of detaching its Slav Provinces from the Ottoman Empire. Had the revolt been allowed to spread, as in the case of the Bosnian and Herzegovinian insurrection, the Turkish army stationed along the Servian frontier for the purpose of keeping the Principality in check, would have been detached from the basis of its operations, and have run the risk of total destruction. Hardly any of its remains would have been saved at Salonica. A vital interest—the law of self-preservation—rendered the immediate suppression of the revolt an urgent necessity. Mahmoud remained fatally blind and inactive ; any loss of time might involve the worst consequences. Can, then, the Governor-General be so severely blamed for having used the only means within his power to pacify the Province under his jurisdiction, when no other alternative remained?

I readily admit that excesses have been committed by the irregulars. Many Bulgarians might have been spared, for at the first sound of the cannon they all fled in confusion. But the fact that these very men had inaugurated the disturbances by mercilessly killing every Mussulman they came across, without distinction of age or sex, must not be lost sight of. Great, indeed, had been the provocation which called forth the Mussulmans' thirst for revenge; their aggressors had sworn to destroy them all. The number of Bulgarians killed in the affray was at first rated at 32,000, then at 50,000 or 60,000, and lastly, at from 12,000 to 25,000. There are no serious grounds for those estimates, which are gratuitous, and prompted by personal opinion or derived from suspicious quarters. If any one would go to the trouble of making a rough estimate of the men missing in the different villages, the result would be hardly more than 3,000 for the Adrianople vilayet, and a much less number for the Danube vilayet and the district of Sofia included. The same exaggerations prevail with respect to the burnt villages. No less than 150 or 160 were mentioned. I have ascertained that thirty-one villages have been burnt in the caza of Tatar-Bazardjik, and sixteen villages and hamlets in the rest of the district of Philippopoli. These villages have moreover for the most part been burnt down by the insurgents themselves, in order to compel the timid and the refractory inhabitants to take up arms ; a like system was followed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was an equal mistake on the part of the Government to have neglected the drawing up of the lists of burnt villages, and of the killed, as it was to have withheld from publication the telegrams which came in from all sides at the outbreak of the revolt. But such publications were unpalatable to Mahmoud Pasha, whose policy it was to ignore and deny the existence of disturbances under his administration.

The Bashi-Bazouks, it is maintained, still continue to infest the country to this very day, even after the suppression of the revolt. The Government should, no doubt, have recalled them, as soon as their work was done; for it is a dangerous thing to leave a part of the population provided with weapons, while the other is defenceless. Still, if one comes to think that large numbers of fugitives are still hiding in the mountains, in wait perhaps for an opportunity to break into the plains, the fact does not seem so unwarrantable as at first sight. The attitude of Servia is besides not at all reassuring to the Government, and the co-operation of the irregulars may be wanted at a moment's notice. Some may object that the Porte possesses regular troops wherewith eventually to check a Servian invasion; but they must bear in mind that such an invasion would be combined with the rising of the neighbouring countries, exclusively inhabited by Christians, and that the double task of keeping down a whole population, and repulsing the Servians, would be too heavy for the regular army.

As regards the alleged depredations and excesses daily committed by the Bashi-Bazouks, I am convinced that there is a great deal of exaggeration in all that has been said of them. Talking of their robbing and plundering travellers and the inhabitants, carrying off their flocks and crops, I have seen with my eyes herds of horses, oxen, and sheep grazing under the care of young men. The greater part of the crops, which have ripened within the last few days, are mown and made up into sheaves in the fields. Men and women may be seen at work on all sides, and when I come across peasants leading their carts to the town, escorted by Bashi-Bazouks, I cannot bring myself to believe that

they would thus peaceably travel with men who make it their trade to plunder and slaughter.

I know a tourist who, but a few days ago, went alone, with a young boy for his guide, over many localities of the Tatar-Bazardjik district, and I hear it said that no one dares to venture out in the country without a squad of zaptiehs? Many make it their business to spread terror everywhere; they delight in talking of the massacre of Christians, and pillage of their towns. But it is only fair to say that people should guard against these ugly rumours, set afloat for the purpose of preventing the return of confidence and tranquillity. And then the authorities are accused with doing nothing to calm down the excited feelings of the population, and bring about the resumption of business! I have been told that the Christians keep hiding in their houses through fear of the Turks. Well, I have gone through the streets and bazars of Philippopoli and Tatar-Bazardjik, and seen men, women, and children come and go among the Turks, keep near them, work in their shops, talk, and carry on their little trades without the least sign of anxiety or fear. The next thing I hear is that the aspect of the place is not as lively as it used to be; as if a revolution which broke out with fire and massacre could pass away without leaving its mark on the population and country!

When passions and hates have cooled down, and it is possible to compare facts as they occurred with the accounts given of them, it will be astonishing to see how certain people have taken advantage of public credulity.

No. 25.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1876.

I HAVE received your despatch of July 19, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction that the Porte have offered every facility to Mr. Baring to enable him to prosecute his inquiry into the alleged excesses in Bulgaria, and that the American missionaries have furnished him with a Memorandum of facts to aid in the inquiry.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 26.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1876.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 19th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople respecting the atrocities which are reported to have been committed in Bulgaria, I have to instruct your Excellency to bring to the knowledge of the Porte, if you have not done so already, Mr. Dupuis's statements as to the alleged use of torture in connection with judicial proceedings now going on against political prisoners in Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 27.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 25, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a further report from Mr. Baring upon the alleged Bulgarian atrocities which has reached me this day.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Mr. Baring to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Philippopoli, July* 22, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, during the last two days I have been endeavouring to obtain information in this town respecting the occurrences which have of late excited so much attention in England and elsewhere.

The masses of conflicting statements I have heard from all parties render my mission one of extreme difficulty, and I fear I cannot as yet forward to your Excellency any full report of what has taken place.

The sale of woman and children in the streets of Philippopoli and Tatar Bazardjik is, I have no doubt, a pure invention; the most independent testimony leads me to the belief that no such traffic has been carried on here. What has happened is this: families have been scattered, and the children have often been taken into the houses of persons of all religions out of pure charity. Of course, under the circumstances, it is not easy for the parents to trace them, and consequently the rumour goes abroad that they are sold into slavery. As regards the young girls, I am told that it is very probable that after the sack of the villages a certain number of their number were taken to the houses of their captors, but I do not believe that anything like open sale took place.

There is not, I believe, one word of truth in the wild fable about the cartloads of heads being paraded in the streets by Albanian Bashi-Bazouks, of whom, by the way, there are extremely few, most of the irregulars who committed the atrocities in these provinces being Circassians, Gypsies, and Pomaks.

As regards the number of killed, till I have visited the villages I hardly dare speak, but my present opinion, which I trust hereafter to be able to modify, is that about 12,000 Bulgarians have perished.

The number of Turks killed is equally difficult to ascertain; the authorities put the figure at above 1,000, but my information leads me to believe this to be a gross exaggeration; about half that number would probably be correct, but there is no doubt that the deaths of many of them were attended with circumstances of great cruelty.

Some sixty villages have been wholly or partially burnt, by far the greater portion of them by the Bashi-Bazouks, though a few, perhaps about ten, have been destroyed by the insurgents.

Some great horrors have come to my ears respecting the circumstances which attended the entry into Philippopoli of 400 prisoners coming from Tatar-Bazardjik. They were heavily chained by fours, and as after their journey they were sinking with fatigue, they were driven like cattle by the zaptiehs, who used the butt ends of their guns without mercy, while the Circassians flogged them with whips.

I visited the prisons yesterday and found them extremely crowded. The captives are confined in the common prison and in two large khans, the notables of Philippopoli being kept separate, and being subjected, as far as I could see, to no great discomfort. Those that I interrogated said that they had no particular cause of complaint as regards food and treatment, though, perhaps, fear may have made them declare their case to be better than it really is.

The prison is now about as full as it can hold, and about half the prisoners have been released or sentenced, so that there can be no doubt that at the commencement the overcrowding must have been something fearful.

I hear that it is currently reported in the town that the authorities knowing I was going to the prison had it cleaned out, and that the sleeping mats I saw were laid down shortly before I entered. Of course I cannot say whether this is true or not, but as I purposely gave the authorities as little notice as possible of my intentions, I cannot but think that it is invention of the malicious.

A Bashi-Bazouk was hung this morning for having taken part in the Hasskeui affair respecting which I believe Mr. Dupuis has fully reported to your Excellency. The depredations of these irregulars still continue, and they are taking what little was left by those who suppressed the insurrection. Two have now been hung here, but till a much severer example is made they will still go on with their misdeeds. Moreover, it is indispensable that they should have officers of the regular army put over them who could control their acts, and that when they arrive at the principal stations they should be received by some regular troops.

One thing is perfectly clear, viz., that the province is ruined, as the Government will discover to its cost when the tithe is collected; it is stated that the loss to the Treasury will amount to 100,000*l.*, Turkish, a sum which can now be ill spared. It seems to me

that there is but one course open to the Government if it wishes to bring them back in any way to their normal condition, viz., to give some slight aid to the inhabitants of the villages which have been destroyed. Large numbers of horses, oxen, sheep, and cows have been driven off by Pomaks and others, and it is the duty of the Government to oblige the latter to return them to their owners; a little help could also be given in providing materials for rebuilding houses, and seed for the fields should also be given.

It is true that at the present moment the Imperial Treasury could ill-afford the smallest strain, but still less can it afford to lose the sums which formerly flowed into it from these districts, and which, if the autumn and winter be allowed to pass without anything being done, may be considered as lost for ever.

I was present to-day at the first examinations of some of the prisoners, and to all appearances the proceedings were properly conducted, and Salim Effendi, Ali Bey, and the Chief Mollah of Adrianople have the reputation of being just men; the same, however, is not said of all the members of the Commission chosen among the natives of Philippopoli, one of whom has been especially mentioned to me as corrupt, fanatical, and cruel.

A priest, a schoolmaster, a "Tchorbaji," and another Bulgarian were brought up while I was in Court; their declarations were read over to them, and they were asked whether the contents were true; and, though all contained evidence which would send a man to the gallows before any Tribunal, they invariably replied that everything was correct. Their defence was generally the same; they had acted as they had done either from coercion, fear, or sheer stupidity, and they ended by begging for mercy with tears and lamentations.

To-day two Bulgarians were hung, four sentenced to death, and seven to different terms of imprisonment. Both Kiani Pasha and Salim Effendi have assured me that in a few days by releasing a large number of prisoners they hoped to reduce the cases to be tried to about 500, and the President added that in about twenty-five days he trusted all would be disposed of.

The Bulgarian Bishop's representative complained to me that the prisoners sentenced to death were not permitted to confer in private, that no notice was sent to them when a man was to be hung, and that when priests were executed their beards and hair were cut off, and they were not unfrocked; also that he was not asked to attend the sittings of the Commission.

Salim Effendi, to whom I spoke on the subject, positively denied the truth of all these statements, and said that to-day he had, by verbal message, invited the Bishop's representative to attend the sitting at which I was present, but that he had not come. On other occasions also he was invited, but he only attended once and stayed five minutes.

I told Salim Effendi that the next time he had better send the invitation in writing, as there could then be no mistake about it.

Salim Effendi told me that he had sent copies of the depositions to Constantinople, which he said contained startling evidence given by prisoners themselves respecting the great cruelties committed on Mussulmans at the outbreak of the insurrection, and if what he says is correct it appears to me that the Porte would do well to publish these documents, in order to prove to the world that if the Mussulmans committed atrocities and depredations, the Christians were also guilty of many foul deeds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. BARING.

No. 28.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 4.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 27, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a telegraphic instruction which has been sent by the Grand Vizier to the Governor-Generals of the insurgent Provinces, imposing the penalty of death upon any persons convicted of selling as slaves children of either sex taken from the enemy.

I also inclose a list of the punishments which have been inflicted by the Imperial Commission upon Bashi-Bazouks for various outrages committed by them in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(In the absence of Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) NASSAU JOCELYN.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Newspaper Extract.

THE WAR. SELLING CAPTIVE CHILDREN AS SLAVES.—The Grand Vizier has addressed the following telegraphic order to the Governors-General of the Provinces of Adrianople, the Danube, Bosnia, and Monastir, and to Abdul-Kerim Pasha, the generalissimo of the Turkish forces, at head-quarters at Nish. The telegram is dated the 25th instant (Tuesday last):—

"I have just learnt that there are, amongst the volunteers of the army corps of Widdin, men who have sold as slaves children of both sexes of which they obtained possession during their expeditions into Servia. This is an act which I formally reprove, and its authors must not escape the punishment it entails. Henceforth, all persons who shall sell or buy children of either sex, whether coming from Servia or any other place, shall be immediately punished with the penalty of death. Those who may have bought children of this kind are summoned to give them up to the local authorities within a given period, and all contraveners of these orders will be condemned to death. Those who are found to be going to the war for the purpose of committing acts of outrage and pillage will be at once sent back to their homes. You are requested to give publicity to these decisions by printed proclamation, and to use every possible vigilance in carrying them into execution."

THE EXCESSES IN BULGARIA. PUNISHMENTS BY THE COMMISSION.—We received on Tuesday evening the following communication from the Bureau de la Presse:—

"His Excellency Kiani Pasha, at present at Philippopoli, in fulfilment of his special mission, telegraphs to the Porte under date of Tuesday, the 25th instant, the sentences pronounced by the court-martial appointed to try the members of Hadji Murad's band of Bashi-Bazouks charged with various outrages. Of these individuals, fourteen have been condemned to terms of imprisonment with hard labour,—one for nine years, two for five years, and eight for three years, in conformity with the provisions of Article 57 of the Penal Code. Twelve of the men accused have been acquitted, and the Tribunal continues its investigation of the cases of other persons charged."

No. 29.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 5.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 4 Août*, 1876.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence deux exemplaires imprimées de la traduction du Rapport présenté à la Sublime Porte par son Excellence Edib Effendi, Commissaire Extraordinaire, sur l'enquête ordonnée par le Gouvernement Impérial dans le vilayet d'Andrinople.

Ce travail consciencieux expose de la manière la plus impartiale les derniers événements dont la Bulgarie a été le théâtre; il rétablit les faits sous leur vrai jour, et constate d'une façon indiscutable de quel côté ont été commises ces atrocités dont la Sublime Porte et l'Europe entière se sont si profondément émues.

Le Gouvernement Impérial aime à espérer que l'exposé sincère et véridique qu'il met sous les yeux du public édifiera tout le monde sur le vrai caractère de ces événements, si étrangement dénaturés par ses détracteurs.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, August* 4, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency two inclosed printed copies of the Report presented to the Sublime Porte by his Excellency Edib Effendi, Commissioner Extraordinary, on the inquiry ordered by the Imperial Government in the vilayet of Adrianople.

This conscientious Report exposes in the most impartial manner the latest events of which Bulgaria has been the scene; it makes the facts appear in their true light, and

shows in the most indisputable manner which side committed those atrocities that have so deeply moved the Sublime Porte and all Europe.

The Imperial Government hopes that the sincere and truthful statement which it places under the eyes of the public will enlighten all the world respecting the true character of these events, so strangely misrepresented by its detractors.

I have, &c.

(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Report presented by his Excellency Edib Effendi, Commissioner with extraordinary powers on the Inquiry ordered by the Sublime Porte in the Vilayet of Andrinople.

(Traduction.)

LE Caïmacam de Bazardjik a fait savoir aux autorités de Philippopoli que des instructions venaient d'être envoyées aux différents comités révolutionnaires, leur prescrivant de provoquer l'explosion pour le 1er Mai, 1876, sur tous les points à la fois, du mouvement insurrectionnel Bulgare préparé et organisé, de longue main, sur des instigations étrangères; que des transports clandestines d'armes et de munitions s'effectuaient; que des travaux de retranchements étaient entrepris aux environs des villages Avrat-Alan, Otlouk, Persédin, Derbend, et autres localités du Sandjak de Philippopoli sises au pied du Grand Balkan, et que, pour ne pas donner l'éveil, on avait soin d'empêcher les voyageurs Musulmans de traverser ces villages ou de s'y arrêter. Aussitôt les officiers de gendarmerie Ahmed et Nédjib Aghas ont été expédiés à Avrat-Alan avec mission de procéder à une enquête et d'arrêter les coupables.

L'ex-Gouverneur du Sandjak se rendit en personne à Bazardjik, escorté de quelques cavaliers, et, de là, il se dirigea vers la même localité. Sur l'avis donné par les affiliés de l'insurrection que ces officiers venaient de partir pour Avrat-Alan avec ordre d'arrêter les membres du Comité Révolutionnaire, Ahmed et Nédjib Aghas, suivis de leur escorte, sont attaqués en route par des villageois Chrétiens, armés, qui les somment de se rendre en leur disant: "Bazardjik a entièrement brûlé; les Musulmans qui ont refusé de se soumettre ont été massacrés, toute résistance est donc inutile."

Pour toute réponse, Ahmed se défend, les armes à la main, et après avoir blessé quelques-uns de ces individus, il parvient à s'enfuir avec ses compagnons.

Nédjib Agha parvient, de son côté, à se soustraire aux coups de ses agresseurs et à rentrer sain et sauf. L'ex-Gouverneur-Général qui se trouvait en route pour le village d'Otlouk, comprenant alors la gravité de la situation, juge à propos de revenir sur ses pas afin de prendre les mesures exigées par les circonstances.

Quoiqu'il fût arrêté et convenu parmi les conspirateurs, que le mouvement insurrectionnel n'éclaterait que dans les premiers jours de Mai, le complot ayant été tout-à-coup dévoilé, le jour d'explosion a dû être avancé. Les rebelles, comprenant d'ailleurs que tout ajournement compromettrait leurs projets, se sont hâtés de lever l'étendard de la révolte.

Les débuts du mouvement ont été marqués dans certains quartiers de Bazardjik et dans les petits villages environnants, par le massacre des Musulmans, hommes, femmes, vieillards et enfants; les fils télégraphiques ont été coupés, les ponts détruits, les corps de garde de gendarmerie dans les localités dites Kiz et Turk Derbend, assaillis et brûlés après que les hommes qui les occupaient avaient été tués; on incendia les relais et la station de Belova, faisant ainsi périr dans les flammes les personnes qui s'y étaient enfermées et qui avaient refusé de se rendre; on massacra partout les employés du Gouvernement, tels que le Mudir et les kiatibs; leurs femmes, leurs filles subirent le même sort.

Je regrette que ma mission et le respect que je professe pour la vérité, m'imposent le pénible devoir de rapporter ici l'horrible fait que voici:

Une de ces malheureuses filles a été mutilée dans ses parties génitales, et le monstre qui s'est porté à cette atrocité, s'est orné le bras du lambeau de chair arrachée comme d'un bracelet.

Les habitants Musulmans des villages voisins, surtout ceux qui se trouvaient en minorité dans des villages Chrétiens, en apprenant ces scènes d'une cruauté inouïe, se sont hâtés de fuir devant la mort. Les Chrétiens profitèrent de cette fuite pour incendier leurs maisons après les avoir pillées.

Les Musulmans épouvantés par la vue de tant de malheureux qui ayant pu échapper sanglants des mains des rebelles, accouraient à Bazardjik, à Philippopoli et dans d'autres grands villages Musulmans, se sont tous armés à la hâte; des corps de volontaires furent

partout organisés, afin de protéger les villages qui se trouvaient les plus exposés aux agressions des rebelles.

L'arrivée des troupes régulières mit heureusement fin à toutes ces scènes de désolation.

Parmi les papiers saisis sur Betkofski, un des chefs de l'insurrection, tué dans une embuscade aux environs d'Orhanié, se trouvait une pièce contenant les délibérations d'un conseil des chefs de la révolte tenu avant le mouvement. D'après ce document, la révolte devait éclater le 1er Mai; tous les villages situés à proximité des défilés de Derbend, ainsi que les villages Chrétiens, dont l'attitude pourrait être nuisible à leurs intérêts, devaient être incendiés; les femmes, les enfants et les malades seraient transportés à Avrat-Alan et à Otlouk-keuy, et tous les hommes qui ne pourraient pas faire la guerre seraient employés à défendre les passages. Des agents spéciaux mettraient le feu à Philippopoli dans seize parties de la ville, à Bazardjik dans douze.

Les Chrétiens des villages voisins, à la première lueur de l'incendie, et pendant que la population serait occupée à combattre le feu, devaient fondre sur les villes en flammes, égorger tout ce qu'il y avait de Musulmans et piller leurs biens. Quant à Andrinople et à Sofia, dont la destruction par le feu avait été également jugée nécessaire, des incendiaires recrutés dans les villages y devaient être envoyés exprès.

Les habitants des villages Musulmans qui demanderaient grâce, seraient séparés de leurs femmes, de leurs enfants et des infirmes, qui seraient envoyés à Avrat-Alan et à Otlouk-keuy, où ils seraient protégés; les hommes seraient conduits dans un autre endroit et surveillés jusqu'à ce que l'insurrection prit consistance. Ceux qui refuseraient l'obéissance devaient être mis à mort ainsi que leurs femmes et leurs enfants; leurs maisons devaient être incendiées et leurs biens saccagés. Ces dispositions, arrêtées à l'unanimité de voix du conciliabule, étaient formulées par demande et réponse, sur l'acte signé par tous les affidés réunis. Différentes copies de ces instructions avaient été transmises aux chefs, avec ordre de s'y conformer scrupuleusement. Les signataires de ce document s'étaient donnés chacun un titre ou une qualité; l'un s'appelait Commandant des troupes, l'autre Ministre de l'Intérieur, un troisième Ministre des Affaires Etrangères. Il y avait aussi un Ministre de la Justice, un Ministre de l'Artillerie, de l'équipement, des provisions, &c.

Aussitôt informée de ces faits l'autorité se livra à des recherches qui firent éclater l'insurrection cinq ou six jours avant la date convenue, à Poursiden, à Derbend, à Avrat-Alan, à Otlouk-keuy et ensuite à Batak, à Bratchkova et à Brouchandja. Il en est résulté que l'on n'a pas pu mettre le feu dans toutes les localités à la fois et attaquer les villes en flammes, comme il était prescrit.

Après que les desseins des insurgés avaient été dévoilés aux autorités, comme à tous les habitants Musulmans en général, des troupes furent appelées, en toute hâte, pour la défense de la vie et des biens de la population. Des détachements de volontaires Musulmans se formèrent pour garder l'intérieur et les environs des villes comme ceux de villages. Ces mesures promptes et énergiques ont empêché les agitateurs des autres localités de se joindre au mouvement. Néanmoins, au jour fixé, l'incendie éclata sur quelques points du bazar de Philippopoli, mais la population, avertie par le canon d'alarme, est accourue de tous les côtés, et s'est rendue maîtresse du feu avant qu'il se fût propagé. Les miliciens nouvellement formés ont défendu de leur côté la ville, contre les paysans armés qui, fidèles au mot d'ordre, s'étaient présentés pendant la nuit pour l'attaquer, et les ont contraints à rentrer dans leurs foyers.

Il est à remarquer que les insurgés avaient eu la précaution de recommander que le canon d'alarme, placé sur une hauteur de la ville de Philippopoli pour annoncer le feu, fût encloué. Mais les autorités qui soupçonnaient le fait firent doubler la garde du canon.

Il résulte de toutes les informations que j'ai recueillies, que les villages d'Avrat-Alan, d'Otlouk-keuy et de Batak-keuy étaient les seuls foyers réels de l'insurrection d'Andrinople et que la révolte n'avait pas eu le temps de se propager dans les autres localités. Les villages qui ont brûlé dans le district de Bazardjik sont au nombre de 28, à savoir: 4 villages exclusivement Musulmans, 6 villages mixtes, et 18 villages exclusivement Chrétiens: 24 villages, dont 4 Musulmans, ont été incendiés par les rebelles qui se sont ensuite retirés dans les montagnes et ont occupé les passages.

Sur ces 24 villages, 15 ont été complètement dévastés et 6 en partie. Les 4 villages complémentaires ont été en partie incendiés par les troupes régulières et auxiliaires. Ainsi, d'après les vérifications faites sur les lieux, les 28 villages qui ont été en tout ou en partie la proie des flammes, comptaient 5,656 maisons, dont 2,667 ont été épargnées. L'incendie a donc dévoré 2,989 maisons ou édifices.

Ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, les troupes n'avaient pas été expédiées sur les 28 villages en question. Celles-ci n'ont occupé que les villages d'Otlouk-keuy, de Bertchoka et de Batak; le défilé de Persiden et le village de Pérouchidja, dans le district de

Philippopoli ; enfin le village de Boyadjik dans le district de Slimina. Les troupes de réserve, c'est-à-dire, les milices Musulmanes locales, ont été seules à occuper les villages de Batak et de Persiden. Les autres villages ont été occupés par les troupes régulières et les milices réunies. Ce n'est pas seulement l'état d'insurrection, proprement dit, qui a nécessité l'attaque de ces villages, mais encore le refus obstiné des habitants à écouter les conseils de soumission et à se rendre aux sommations qui leur ont été adressées pendant trois jours.

Le village d'Avrat-Alan était le centre principal de l'insurrection. Toutefois, eu égard à la soumission que ses habitants ont montrée, les troupes Impériales les ont traités avec le plus grand ménagement ; c'est un fait qui peut donner la mesure exacte du traitement exercé par les troupes Impériales envers les autres villages. Même, lorsque les habitants refusaient de se soumettre, et qu'il y avait lieu de les attaquer, nos autorités militaires les invitaient préalablement à mettre les non-combatants, enfants, femmes et vieillards, dans un lieu de sûreté. Mais, les insurgés persistaient à méconnaître les sentiments d'humanité qui inspiraient une pareille proposition, et les troupes Impériales se sont trouvées dans la nécessité absolue d'engager le combat tout en épargnant, avec le plus grand soin, la vie des femmes et des enfants, les ordres les plus sévères ayant été donnés à la troupe de ne pas se livrer à des actes répréhensibles.

Malheureusement les Bulgares, dans leur résistance opiniâtre, se trouvaient, sur quelques points, réunis avec leurs familles ; c'est ainsi que quelques femmes ont été atteintes pendant le combat. Le Gouvernement s'est d'ailleurs empressé de prodiguer les plus grands soins à ces victimes de l'aveuglement et de la peur. Il y avait au village d'Otlouk-keuy 4,121 habitants de tout âge ; à Bratchkova 1574, et à Batak 1441. Le nombre total des paysans dans ces trois villages s'élevait à peu près à 7,000. Si l'on réduit ce chiffre de moitié pour les non-combattants, il resterait 3,500 hommes capables de porter les armes. En supposant qu'un nombre égal de combattants étrangers ait pu se réunir à eux, le nombre des insurgés atteindrait ainsi le chiffre de 7,000. Or, la plupart des habitants de ces villages sont aujourd'hui réinstallés dans leurs foyers. On peut facilement juger, par là, des pertes que ces bourgs ont subies durant la lutte qu'ils ont engagée.

L'examen des registres de l'Etat Civil pouvait faire constater néanmoins la disparition d'un grand nombre d'individus appartenant à ces villages. mais il y en a beaucoup qui se sont réfugiés dans les montagnes, après avoir incendié leurs maisons, et il y en a d'autres qui se trouvent aujourd'hui disséminés dans des localités voisines comme journaliers et qui reçoivent provisoirement l'hospitalité dans les autres villages. Il est donc difficile actuellement d'établir d'une manière exacte le nombre des individus qui ont disparu.

Le combat qui a eu lieu au village de Persiden a été insignifiant. Aux premiers coups de fusil échangés, les paysans effrayés ont abandonné précipitamment les retranchements qu'ils avaient élevés et ont pris la fuite. Les pertes de ce village ne consistent que dans quelques morts ou blessés ; celles de Pérouchidja ne sont guère plus importantes et celles de Boyadjik s'élèvent à peu près à 80 hommes, comme il ressort des détails que nous allons donner ci-après.

A part les soldats des troupes irrégulières et de la milice, morts dans les différents combats, on ne sait pas encore au juste le nombre des Musulmans qui ont péri soit dans les villages, soit dans les corps de garde et les stations incendiées au commencement de l'insurrection. Plusieurs commerçants Musulmans en voyage ont été, en outre, saisis et assassinés par les insurgés. Je suis d'avis que le nombre des Musulmans qui ont ainsi trouvé la mort, entre les mains des insurgés, dépasse 400.

Les hommes qui ont commis des assassinats avec préméditation sont aujourd'hui interrogés et jugés en audience publique ; ils recevront leur punition selon la loi. D'autres individus qui ont pu se justifier de ces crimes sont mis en liberté sous caution.

Les assassins d'une vingtaine de Tzinghanés, appartenant à la religion Musulmane, ont avoué leur crime devant le Tribunal Mixte *ad hoc*. Ces pauvres gens avaient été amenés, par force, au village d'Avrat-Alan, où ils avaient été contraints de fabriquer des cercles de fer, pour les canons en bois des insurgés, et divers autres objets ; puis ils ont été égorgés, les bras liés par derrière, les insurgés considérant comme dangereux de les laisser en vie. Les prévenus ont avoué également dans leur interrogatoire qu'ils avaient tué " comme un chien " un Musulman en voyage, malgré ses prières qu'on lui laissât la vie sauve. Tout cela est constaté dans les procès-verbaux de l'interrogatoire.

Quant aux promoteurs du mouvement, nous avons eu des témoignages tendant à prouver que la rébellion a été l'œuvre des maîtres d'école et des popes des villages.

Il a été constaté que les bourgs susmentionnés d'Avrat-Alan, d'Otlouk-keuy et de Brasdin, avaient été fortifiés par des retranchements faits en terre et en bois et par

d'autres travaux de défense ; que toute la population Chrétienne avait pris les armes ; que les retranchements étaient armés de canons improvisés d'un nouveau genre, faits en bois dur, enlacés de cordes goudronnées et cerclés de fer, et qu'enfin on était allé jusqu'à confectionner des espèces de longues perches, armées de fers tranchants, en guise de baïonnettes, dont les femmes devaient se servir en cas de besoin. D'autre part, le fait, que la plupart des villageois avaient antérieurement enfoui leurs effets les plus précieux sous la terre, qu'ils ont ensuite cultivée et ensemencée pour en cacher toute trace, prouve que le mouvement insurrectionnel était préparé de longue main.

Passons maintenant aux événements de Batak-keuy. Les habitants de ce village ont commencé par arrêter et tuer plusieurs commerçants Musulmans de passage chez eux. Les Musulmans des villages sis aux alentours de Dospat Balkan, à la nouvelle de ces méfaits, avaient dépêché sur les lieux le fils du nommé Ali Agha pour s'enquérir de ce qui s'y passait ; ce dernier a été aussitôt arrêté à son tour par les insurgés. Cette nouvelle agression, et le bruit des armements et des préparatifs qui se faisaient ostensiblement dans les dits villages contre les Musulmans, étant parvenus à la connaissance de ceux-ci, ils se sont armés à la hâte et sont accourus vers ces villages pour protéger les innocents et pour prévenir une attaque dirigée contre eux-mêmes. Un notable Bulgare avait cependant, à force de prières et de supplications, réussi à arracher à la mort le fils d'Ali Agha et il avait obtenu sa mise en liberté ; le retour de celui-ci au milieu des siens causa une vive joie. Sur ces entrefaites, les Dospates s'étant présentés pour demander la cause de ces désordres des villageois Bulgares, furent eux-mêmes reçus par des coups de fusil qui confirmèrent dès lors les Musulmans dans leurs appréhensions. Ils demandèrent aussitôt des secours en hommes et en munitions, et, après avoir vainement exhorté les Bulgares à renoncer à leurs projets coupables, qui déjà avaient fait plusieurs victimes parmi eux, ils ouvrirent enfin les hostilités et engagèrent le combat. Il est à remarquer que, même alors, ceux des Chrétiens qui ont demandé grâce ont été désarmés et épargnés ; mais les autres qui se sont réfugiés dans l'église en pierre du village et qui ont persisté à continuer la lutte, ont porté l'exaspération des Musulmans à son comble. C'est alors que ceux-ci, pour les déloger de leur abri, ont mis le feu aux quelques bâtisses en bois qui environnaient l'église. Les Bulgares, comprenant enfin le danger qui les menaçait, quittèrent leur refuge, et un combat terrible s'engagea entre eux et leurs assaillants. Il est malheureusement constaté que, pendant cette lutte sanglante, les pertes ont été considérables, de part et d'autre, relativement à la population de ce village qui s'élevait à 1441 âmes. A la pensée de tant de désastres et de ruines on ne peut s'empêcher de maudire ceux qui, en semant la haine et la discorde parmi ces populations crédules et primitives, les ont poussées à de tels actes de désespoir et de cruauté.

Le notable Bulgare dont la généreuse intervention avait sauvé les jours du fils d'Ali Agha, envisageant la gravité de la situation, avait passé, dès le début du combat, du côté des Musulmans avec toute sa famille. Les Dospates les ont mis en sécurité dans leurs villages, et ont pourvu à leur entretien. Ils ont fait de même pour les enfants qui ont été trouvés abandonnés, sans parents, après le combat. Ils les ont recueillis et amenés dans les villages Musulmans ; de là, l'origine de la nouvelle à sensation, qu'un grand nombre d'enfants avaient été réduits à l'esclavage par les Turcs. On sait, en effet, que d'après les prescriptions de la loi Mahométane, les veuves et les orphelins qui se trouvent sans appui, doivent être adoptés et entretenus par l'autorité jusqu'à ce qu'ils puissent être admis dans d'autres localités. Quelques villageois Musulmans les ont donc amenés dans leurs villages et ont pourvu à leur subsistance. Lorsque l'insurrection a été étouffée, ils ont été successivement renvoyés et réinstallés dans leurs foyers.

Parce que des manœuvres criminelles des ennemis jurés de la nation ont réussi à semer la discorde parmi les différentes populations du même pays, s'ensuit-il qu'une partie de cette population puisse, impunément, à l'epoque où nous vivons, réduire l'autre partie à l'esclavage ? C'est là une énormité qui n'a pas le sens commun. Il est fort probable, dans les circonstances dont il s'agit, qu'un petit nombre de femmes et d'enfants Chrétiens se trouvent encore à l'heure qu'il est dans des villages Musulmans, où ils ont été recueillis par humanité et nullement amenés ni retenus comme esclaves. Peut-être ces malheureux, qui sont restés sans gîte et sans appui, s'y sont-ils réfugiés eux-mêmes et rendent-ils, en retour de l'hospitalité qu'ils reçoivent, les services domestiques dont ils sont capables. Ceux qui répandent ces bruits maiveillants feraient assurément une meilleure action en informant les autorités qu'un enfant se trouve dans de telles conditions, dans un endroit quelconque, et il est certain, que celles-ci s'empresseraient de le retirer et de le remettre à ses parents ou, à défaut, à ses amis et coreligionnaires.

Quant à la défaite infligée aux insurgés de Boyadjikeuy, dépendant d'Islimié, voici la vérité à ce sujet :

L'éloignement de ce village du foyer de l'insurrection l'avait empêché d'élever des

retranchements et de faire des préparatifs de défense. Cependant les bourgs environnants étant habités principalement par des Chrétiens, ceux-ci se proposaient d'en faire leur centre de réunion. D'un autre côté, les insurgés ayant fait leur apparition et des émissaires venus de la Serbie par les Balkans ayant réussi à convaincre les habitants de Boyadjikeuy, ces derniers ainsi encouragés, empêchèrent les Musulmans de traverser leur village. Hachem Effendi, Caïmacam de Yamboli, dépendant d'Islimié et situé près de Boyadjikeuy, se rendit sur les lieux, accompagné de quelques zaptiés, afin de se rendre compte par lui-même de cette attitude hostile ; l'accès du village lui fut interdit. Le Commandant de la division militaire qui se trouvait à Islimié fut aussitôt avisé de la mauvaise tournure que prenaient les choses et se rendit à Boyadjikeuy avec un bataillon et quelques volontaires. A son arrivée devant le village, quelques vieillards vinrent à sa rencontre et il leur demanda les raisons pour lesquelles ils avaient empêché les voyageurs et principalement le Caïmacam de Yamboli de pénétrer chez eux et pourquoi enfin ils se réunissaient toujours armés. Les vieillards répondirent qu'ils se rassemblaient parce qu'ils avaient peur, et qu'ils étaient impuissants à faire entendre raison aux jeunes gens de leurs familles ; sur quoi ils se retirèrent. Aussitôt après leur départ, des coups de fusil furent tirés sur les soldats et ordre a dû être donné d'attaquer le village. Pendant l'action, la plupart des maisons brûlèrent et les bestiaux qui s'y trouvaient se sauvèrent du côté de nos troupes qui les capturèrent. Mais, de là à prétendre que des 2,000 âmes qui composaient la population du village de Boyadjikeuy, cinquante seulement furent épargnéés, il y a un abîme. Il a été constaté que ce bruit provenait de rapports faits par la populace elle-même, et l'on sait combien les paysans sont toujours enclins à exagérer singulièrement les faits qui les touchent.

Suivant mes propres renseignements et les investigations auxquelles j'ai procédé, le nombre des Bulgares tués dans cette déplorable affaire peut varier entre 70 et 80 hommes tout au plus. Dans ce nombre, il n'y a eu ni femmes ni enfants, à l'exception, toutefois, d'une seule femme qui a été atteinte par une balle. Les villageois évaluent leurs pertes à 100 ou 110 individus. Mais ils ne tiennent pas compte des fuyards qui se sont réfugiés ailleurs. Ainsi qu'il a été mentionné plus haut, les quelques enfants recueillis dans les villages Musulmans et Chrétiens des environs ont été, par la suite, rendus à leurs parents. On sait, d'ailleurs, que l'un d'entre eux a été confié à un membre Chrétien du Conseil de Yamboly.

Pour ce qui est des effets et des bestiaux qu'on prétend avoir été pillés, nous avons déjà expliqué que les Bulgares, ayant depuis longtemps médité un soulèvement, avaient enfoui tout ce qu'ils possédaient d'objets de valeur dans leurs jardins ou dans leurs champs, qu'ils avaient ensuite pris soin d'ensemencer. Ceci est prouvé par le fait certain qu'ils ont eux-mêmes extrait ces objets après l'apaisement du mouvement insurrectionnel. Il est, dès lors, évident qu'ils ont dû cacher leur argent de la même manière.

Les pertes qu'ils ont subies ne sauraient donc consister qu'en des objets mobiliers, des instruments aratoires, des bestiaux et des denrées alimentaires. Mais comment ces hommes, qui ont mis eux-mêmes, pour la plupart, le feu à leurs villages, pouvaient-ils s'attendre à ne rien perdre de ces objets ? Les Musulmans dont les maisons ont été incendiées par les insurgés n'ont-ils pas tout perdu ?

Il n'en est pas moins reconnu, toutefois, et nous devons malheureusement le constater, que ceux des villages, comme Otlouk-keuy, qui ont été occupés de vive force, ont été pillés par les paysans volontaires des environs.

En ce qui concerne la question des bestiaux, je dois faire remarquer qu'une partie du bétail disséminé dans les pâturages pendant l'insurrection, avait été confiée à la garde de nos troupes, tandis qu'une autre partie est tombée entre les mains des indigènes et des Circassiens.

Quelques bestiaux appartenant aux paysans qui se trouvaient dans les localités dont les pâturges sont situés aux environs des villages envahis, ont été également enlevés, mais aussitôt que les autorités ont été informées de cette soustraction, elles ont envoyé des détachements de troupes et des gendarmes à cheval dans les villages soupçonnés de recéler les bestiaux enlevés, avec ordre de les reprendre de gré ou de force et de les rendre à leurs véritables propriétaires, ceux-ci eussent-ils même fait partie des insurgés qui avaient fait leur soumission.

Tous les animaux trouvés dans la possession des ravisseurs et qui n'étaient point réclamés par leurs propriétaires, étaient envoyés dans les troupeaux confiés à la garde de l'autorité pour être ensuite remis à ceux des héritiers des paysans morts dans la lutte qui pouvaient les réclamer à bon droit.

Les populations avaient, d'ailleurs, été informées que tout avis donné à l'autorité de la confiscation de têtes de bétail, au préjudice de leurs véritables propriétaires, serait suivi de la reprise et de la remise immédiate de ce bétail à qui de droit.

Grâce à ces dispositions arrêtées par les autorités Impériales, un nombre considérable d'animaux trouvés parmi les troupeaux confiés à la garde des préposés, ou bien en la possession d'individus qui se les étaient appropriés, ont pu être restitués à leurs propriétaires.

Néanmoins, il existe encore quelques-uns de ces derniers que leur participation à la rébellion empêche de se faire connaître, et d'autres qui ne songent qu'à s'éloigner sous prétexte de se mettre à la recherche de leur bétail. C'est ce qui fait qu'il y a toujours de grands troupeaux qui se trouvent sous la garde des employés de l'autorité.

Il est superflu de le répéter; le mouvement insurrectionnel, qui a éclaté vers la fin d'Avril, n'ayant pas duré longtemps, les récoltes heureusement n'ont pas eu à souffrir. Grâce à Dieu, cette année l'agriculture dans cette contrée est très-favorisée et le blé, le foin et le seigle sont en pleine production. Les villageois étant rentrés dans leurs foyers, la récolte a déjà commencé et les produits sont transportés sur les aires. Les cultures de maïs sont dans des bonnes conditions.

On a procédé pour les récoltes comme on l'avait fait pour les bestiaux, en annonçant publiquement qu'elles seraient remises aux propriétaires s'ils sont vivants et à leurs héritiers si leurs parents sont morts.

Tous les habitants compromis, qui témoignent de leur repentir, sont autorisés à retourner dans leurs foyers. Ceux dont les maisons ont été brûlées, se sont empressés de reconstruire des huttes provisoires dans lesquelles ils s'abritent. Cependant, comme ce sont eux qui s'étaient faits les instruments des incitations étrangères et qui avaient les premiers manifesté leur haine contre les Musulmans, ils ne sont pas encore complétement convaincus de l'attitude pacifique de ces derniers; pourtant cet état de suspicion et d'hésitation réciproques tend à se dissiper tous les jours davantage. Le Gouvernement Impérial, de son côté, fait tous ses efforts pour rétablir la confiance dans les esprits des deux partis et le calme dans les cœurs. Il s'occupe avec sollicitude de ceux qui ont souffert et qui réclament son assistance.

Quelques rapports de Consuls et certains journaux font allusion aux sentiments de haine et de mépris qui subsistent encore chez les paysans Musulmans contre leurs concitoyens Bulgares. Mais on oublie de se rendre compte d'une situation qui a menacé de mettre à feu et à sang la Bulgarie tout entière. Dans quel pays du monde où la guerre civile a porté ses ravages et a soulevé à ce point les passions populaires voit-on les combattants de la veille se réconcilier le lendemain? Quel est l'homme qui peut voir d'un œil confiant l'ennemi qui, après avoir porté atteinte à sa vie, à son bien et à son honneur, a fait l'aveu public de ses sentiments d'hostilité devant ses juges eux-mêmes?

La population Musulmane, je le répète, savait à l'avance que les insurgés se proposaient de mettre le feu partout et de se livrer au massacre.

Néanmoins lorsque les incendies se déclaraient une nuit sur plusieurs points de Philoppoli et dans les districts avoisinants de Tatar-Bazardjik, les Musulmans, au lieu de se laisser entraîner à des excès par le sentiment du danger et celui de la légitime défense, ne se sont préoccupés que d'une chose: le salut de la patrie et la sauvegarde de l'ordre public.

Les Bulgares qu'ils considéraient comme leurs frères et avec lesquels ils vivaient depuis tant d'années en parfait accord, se déclarent tout-à-coup leurs ennemis, se livrent contre eux aux dernières violences et ne craignent pas de confesser plus tard que leur but était de les faire tous tomber sous leurs coups.

Qu'y a-t-il d'étrange, après cela, qu'il subsiste encore dans le cœur de ces populations un germe de haine et de méfiance qui ne peut disparaître que lentement et à la longue?

Personne, si ce n'est les ennemis implacables de ce pays, ne saurait considérer une pareille situation sans un profond sentiment de tristesse. Mais, de même qu'une blessure ne peut se cicatriser du jour au lendemain, de même il faut attendre de l'œuvre du temps et des efforts de toute nature qui seront employés pour atteindre ce but, que les animosités se dissipent et que les ferments de vengeance s'apaisent.

L'attitude des criminels Bulgares devant les tribunaux mixtes n'est point faite, il faut bien le dire, pour rassurer les Musulmans. Leurs aveux et leur manière arrogante de dévoiler leurs plans ne respirent point le repentir ni même le regret; mais on sait, heureusement, combien la nation Bulgare tout entière désavoue ce langage et réprouve cette attitude hautaine qui provoque le sourire des Musulmans.

Les Autorités Impériales font, d'ailleurs, tout leur possible pour ramener la concorde parmi ces populations et pour mettre une prompte fin aux causes accidentelles qui les ont divisées un instant.

Après l'exposé sincère et historique des faits qui précèdent, il ne nous reste plus qu'à implorer l'assistance du Tout-Puissant en faveur de l'œuvre entreprise pour rétablir l'ordre, la confiance et la sécurité au milieu de populations si dignes d'intérêt et qui ont été si éprouvées par des malheurs qu'elles n'avaient point mérités.

(Translation.)

THE Kaïmakam of Bazardjik has informed the authorities at Philippopolis that instructions had just been sent to the different Revolutionary Committees ordering them to have everything in readiness for the simultaneous outbreak in every direction, on the 1st of May, 1876, of the insurrection in Bulgaria, long since prepared and arranged at foreign instigation; that arms and munitions of war were secretly transported from one place to another, that entrenchments were thrown up near the villages of Avrat-Alan, Otlouk, Persedin, Derbend, and other places in the Sandjak of Philippopolis, situated at the foot of the Great Balkan, and that in order not to give the alarm, precautions had been taken to prevent Mussulman travellers from passing through these villages or from making any stay in them. Aghas Ahmed and Nedjib, officers of police, were at once dispatched to Avrat-Alan with orders to hold an inquiry and to arrest the guilty.

The ex-Governor of the Sandjak repaired in person to Bazardjik, escorted by a few horsemen, and from thence he directed his steps towards the same spot. Warning having been given by some of those engaged in the insurrection that these officers had just set out for Avrat-Alan with orders to arrest the members of the Revolutionary Committee, Ahmed and Nebjid Aghas, followed by their escort, were attacked on the road by armed Christian peasants, who summoned them to surrender, saying, "Bazardjik has been burnt to the ground; the Mussulmans who refused to submit were put to the sword; all resistance is useless." The only answer made by Ahmed was to defend himself, sword in hand, and after wounding some of these individuals he succeeded in making his escape with his companions. Nedjib Agha, on his side, succeeded in getting away from the blows of his assailants, and in returning safe and sound. The ex-Governor-General, who was on his way to Otlouk, perceiving how serious was the state of affairs, thought it best to retrace his steps and to take the measures called for by the state of affairs.

Although the conspirators had come to a determination that the insurrection should not break out till the first days of the month of May, yet when the plot was suddenly disclosed they were obliged to anticipate the day fixed for the outbreak. The rebels, understanding that any delay would compromise their plans, hastened to raise the standard of revolt.

In certain parts of Bazardjik and in the neighbouring villages the first stages of the movement were marked by the massacre of the Mussulmans, men, women, old men, and children; the wires of the telegraph were cut, the bridges were destroyed; the block-houses of the mounted police in the districts known as Kiz and Turk Derbend were attacked and burnt, after their occupants had been murdered; they set fire to the posting-houses and the railway station at Belvoa, thus causing the death of the persons who had shut themselves up in those buildings, and who had refused to surrender. Government officials, such as the Mudir and the Kiatibs, were everywhere put to death, their wives and daughters met with the same fate.

I regret that my duty, and the regard I have for truth, impose on me the painful duty of relating the following horrible fact:—

One of these unhappy girls was mutilated in her genital parts, and the monster in human shape who committed this atrocious act made the strip of flesh he had torn off into an ornament for his arm, like a bracelet.

The Mussulman inhabitants of the neighbouring villages, especially where they were in a minority, in villages inhabited by Christians, on hearing of these scenes of unparalled atrocity, hastened to flee from the face of death.

The Christians profited by their flight to set fire to their houses after they had pillaged them.

The Mussulmans, terrified by the sight of so many unfortunate creatures who had succeeded in escaping, bleeding, from the hands of the rebels, and who were hastening to Bazardjik, to Philippopolis, and to other large Mussulman villages, armed themselves without loss of time; bodies of volunteers were everywhere organized to protect the villages most exposed to the attacks of the rebels.

Happily the arrival of the regular troops put an end to these scenes of desolation.

Among the papers seized upon Betkofski, one of the insurrectionary leaders who was killed in an ambuscade near Orhanié, was a document containing the deliberations of a council held by the leaders of the insurrection previous to its outbreak.

According to this paper the revolt was to have broken out on the 1st May; all the villages situated near the defiles of Derbend, including the Christian villages, whose attitude might have been injurious to the interests of the rebels, were to be set fire to; the women, the children, and the sick were to be carried to Avrat-Alan, and to Otloukkeuy; and all the

men who were not able to take an active part in the war were to be employed in defending the mountain passes. Agents, specially appointed for the purpose, were to set fire to Philippopolis in sixteen parts of the town, and to Bazardjik in twelve.

The Christians of the neighbouring villages, at the first glimmer of the conflagration, while the inhabitants were engaged in struggling with the flames, were to fall upon the burning towns, cut the throats of all the Mussulmans, and ransack their property. They also deemed it necessary to destroy Sofia and Adrianople by fire, and bands of incendiaries, enlisted in the villages, were to be sent thither on purpose.

The inhabitants of any Moslem village who might ask for quarter were to be separated from their wives and children, and from the sick (all of whom were to be sent to Avrat-Alan and Otloukkeuy, where they were to be placed under protection), the men to be conducted to another place and placed under surveillance until the insurrection should acquire stability. Anyone refusing to obey was to be put to death, his wife and children to share his fate; his house to be set fire to, and his property pillaged. These arrangements were determined on unanimously at a secret meeting; they were drawn up by means of question and answer, and the minute was signed at a meeting of all those who were in the secret.

Different copies of these arrangements had been sent to the leaders with instructions to comply with them to the letter. Each one of those who signed this document assumed some title or rank; one called himself Commander of the Forces, another Secretary of State for the Home Department, a third Minister for Foreign Affairs. There was also a Minister of Justice, a Minister of the Artillery, of the Equipment, of the Commissariat.

The authorities, on receiving information of these occurrences, proceeded to make researches, which resulted in the insurrection breaking out five or six days before the date agreed on at Derbend, Avrat-Alan, and Otloukkeuy, and afterwards at Batak, Bratchooka, and Brouchandja.

The consequence of this was that it was impossible to set fire to all the places at once and attack the burning towns, in compliance with the orders that had been issued.

After the plans of the insurgents had been disclosed to the authorities, and to all the Moslem population in general, troops were sent for, without loss of time, to defend the lives and properties of the population. Detachments of Mussulman volunteers were formed to guard the interior and suburbs of the towns and villages.

These prompt and energetic measures prevented the agitators in other places from joining in the insurrection. Nevertheless, on the day agreed on, fire broke out in the bazaar at Philippopolis, but the inhabitants, warned by the alarm gun, hastened up from every direction, and mastered the flames before they spread. The soldiers of the newly formed militia defended the town against the armed peasants, who, faithful to the word of command, arrived during the night to attack it, and compelled them to return to their homes.

It is worthy of note that the insurgents had taken the precaution to recommend that the alarm gun, placed on rising ground in the town of Philippopolis, should be spiked; but the authorities suspected their motive, and ordered the guard of the cannon to be doubled.

It follows, from all the information I have collected, that the villages of Avrat-Alan, Otloukkeuy, and Batakkeuy, were the only real *foci* of the Adrianople insurrection, and that the revolt had not time to spread to other districts. The villages burnt in the district of Bazardjik are twenty-eight in number, viz., four villages exclusively inhabited by Mussulmans, six villages with a mixed population, and eighteen villages exclusively inhabited by Christians. Twenty-four villages, of which four were Moslem, were burnt by the rebels, who afterwards withdrew to the mountains and occupied the passes.

Of these twenty-four villages fifteen were completely and six partially laid waste; the four remaining villages were partially set fire to by the regular and auxiliary troops. Thus, according to investigations made on the spot, the total number of houses in the twenty-eight villages, which wholly or partially fell a prey to the flames, was 5,656, of which 2,667 were spared; thus 2,989 houses or public buildings were destroyed by fire.

As was said above, no troops were sent to these twenty-eight villages. Only the villages of Otloukkeuy, Bertchoka, and Batak, the defile of Persiden, and the village of Pérouchidja, in the district of Philippopolis, and the village of Boyadjik, in the district of Slimina, were occupied by troops. The villages of Batak and Persiden were occupied only by the reserve forces, that is by the local Mussulman militia. The other villages were occupied jointly by the regular forces and by the militia. It is not merely the state of insurrection, strictly speaking, which rendered it necessary to attack these villages, but the

obstinate refusal of the inhabitants to listen to the advice given to them to submit to the summons to surrender addressed to them for three days.

The village of Avrat-Alan was the chief centre of the insurrection; nevertheless, taking into account the submissiveness shown by the inhabitants, they have been treated with the greatest possible consideration by the imperial troops, and from this we may learn exactly the usage that other villages have met with from the imperial troops. Even when the inhabitants refused to submit, and it became necessary to attack them, our military authorities first invited them to place the non-combatants, children, women, and old men, in a place of safety; but the insurgents persisted in misinterpreting the feelings of humanity which suggested such a proposal, and the imperial troops found it absolutely necessary to commence the fight, taking, however, the greatest possible care to spare the lives of women and children, the strictest orders having been given to the troops not to indulge in any acts deserving of blame.

Unhappily in the obstinate resistance offered by the Bulgarians in several places their families were assembled with them; thus some women were hit in the course of the struggle. The Government, however, hastened to lavish every care on these victims of a blind terror. The total number of inhabitants of the village of Otloukkeuy was 4,121, at Bratchooka 1,574, and at Batak 1,441. The total number of peasants in these three villages amounted to about 7,000, more or less. If one reduces this amount by half for non-combatants, there would be left 3,500 men capable of bearing arms. Supposing that an equal number of foreign combatants succeeded in joining them, the number of the insurgents would thus amount to 7,000. Now the majority of the inhabitants of these villages are at the present day restored to their homes. Hence we can easily estimate the losses suffered by the country towns during the struggle which they themselves began.

From an examination of the parish registers, it might nevertheless be proved that a very large number of individuals belonging to these villages had disappeared, but many fled to the mountains after having set fire to their houses, and others are at present scattered up and down in the neighbouring districts as day-labourers, and receive temporary shelter in the other villages. Thus it is difficult to state exactly the number of those who are missing.

The fight which took place at Persiden was unimportant. At the first shots fired the peasants in terror hastily abandoned the intrenchments they had thrown up, and took to flight.

Thus the losses sustained by this village consist only of a few dead or wounded; the loss at Perouchidja is hardly more important; at Boyadjik the loss amounts to 80 men, more or less, as may be seen from the details which we shall give below.

Beside the soldiers of the irregular troops and of the militia who fell in the different battles, the number of Mussulmans who perished in the villages, the blockhouses and police-stations burnt at the commencement of the insurrection, is not yet accurately known.

Several Mussulman merchants have been, in addition, seized and murdered by the insurgents while they were travelling. My opinion is that the number of Mussulmans who have thus met with their death at the hands of the insurgents exceeds 400.

Those who committed wilful murder are now being publicly examined and tried; they will be punished as the law directs. Others who have succeeded in clearing themselves from these crimes have been set at liberty on bail.

The assassins of 20 Tzingbanés, professing the Mussulman faith, have confessed their crime before the direct Mixed Court. These poor men had been conducted by main force to the village of Avrat Alan, where they were compelled to manufacture iron hoops for the insurgents' wooden cannon and other purposes; then their arms were tied behind them and their throats cut, as the insurgents thought it dangerous to let them live. The accused have also confessed, on their trial, that they had killed "like a dog" a Mussulman whom they met travelling, in spite of his entreaties to be spared. All this is clearly established in the reports of the trial.

As for the promoters of the insurrection, we have received evidence tending to prove that the rebellion has been the work of the village schoolmasters and of the parish priests.

It has been clearly proved that the above-mentioned villages of Avrat Alan, Otloukkeuy, and Brasidin had been fortified by intrenchments of earth and wood, and other defensive works; that the intrenchments were fortified with extemporized cannon of a new sort, made of hard wood, and bound with tarred ropes and fastened with iron hoops; that they had even gone the length of preparing a kind of long pole armed with edged pieces of iron in the shape of bayonets to be used by the women in case of need. Again, the

fact that the majority of the peasants had previously buried their most valuable property in the ground, which they afterwards tilled, and sowed so as to hide all traces, proves that the insurrectionary movement had been prepared some time previously.

Let us now turn to what occurred at Batak-keuy. The inhabitants of this village began by stopping and putting to death several Mussulman merchants who were passing through their villages. The Mussulmans of the villages situated near Dospat Balkan, on receiving news of these crimes, had dispatched the son of one Ali Agha to the spot to inquire as to what was going on; the latter was instantly arrested by the insurgents. This new attack and the rumour of the armaments, and of the preparations openly carried on in the said villages against the Mussulmans, having come to the knowledge of the latter, they armed themselves without loss of time and hastened in the direction of these villages to protect the unoffending population and to anticipate any attack on themselves. A Bulgarian notable had, however, by dint of supplications and entreaties, succeeded in saving the son of Ali Agha from death and in securing his release; the return of the latter to his friends caused the warmest joy. Meantime, when the Dospates came to ask the reason of these disorders on the part of the Bulgarian peasants, they were received with shots, straightway confirming the Mussulmans in their worst fears. They at once asked for help in men and in munitions of war, and after having in vain exhorted the Bulgarians to give up their guilty plans, which had already made several victims among them, they commenced hostilities and began the battle. It is to be noted that even then those of the Christians who asked for pardon were disarmed and spared, but the others who fled to the stone church in the village and persisted in continuing the struggle carried the exasperation of the Mussulmans to the highest possible pitch. In order to dislodge the rebels from their shelter the Moslems set fire to some wooden buildings surrounding the church. When the Bulgarians understood the danger which threatened them, they left their refuge, and a terrible combat took place between them and their assailants. It is unhappily clearly established that during this sanguinary conflict the losses where considerable on both sides in proportion to the population of the village, which numbered 1,441 souls. When we think of so much disaster and havoc we cannot refrain from cursing those who, by sowing hatred and discord among this credulous and simple people, drove them to such cruel acts of despair.

The Bulgarian notable whose generous intervention saved the life of Ali Agha's son, viewing the serious nature of the state of affairs, passed over at the very commencement of the struggle with all his family to the side of the Mussulmans. The Dospates placed them in safety in their villages and provided for their maintenance; they did the same for the children who were found deserted without parents after the struggle. They collected them and brought them to the Mussulman villages; hence originated the sensational news that a large number of children had been reduced to slavery by the Turks. We know indeed that the Mussulman law directs that widows and children found without support are to be adopted and maintained by the authorities until they can be taken in in other places. Several Moslem peasants took them to their villages and provided for their maintenance. When the insurrection was put down, they were sent back and restored to their own homes.

Does it follow that, because the guilty plans of the sworn enemies of the nation have succeeded in sowing discord among the different populations of the same country, one part of this population may with impunity at the present day reduce the other part to slavery? This is an enormity entirely at variance with common sense. It is very probable that under the circumstances in question a small number of Christian women and children are at the present day in Moslem villages, where they have been sheltered from feelings of humanity, and not at all brought there or kept as slaves. Perhaps these unhappy creatures, who have been left without any home and without any means of support, have themselves taken refuge in these houses, and, in return for the hospitality they receive, perform such domestic services as they are capable of. Those who spread these malicious rumours would assuredly do better if they informed the authorities of any child who may be so situated, wherever it may be; and it is certain that they would quickly take it away and restore it to its parents, or, failing these, to its friends and to persons of the same religion.

As to the defeat inflicted on the insurgents of Boyadjikeuy, in the district of Islimié, what follows is the truth:—

The distance of this village from the centre of the insurrection had hindered the inhabitants from throwing up entrenchments and making preparations for defence. Nevertheless—the neighbouring hamlets being inhabited chiefly by Christians—they proposed to make it their chief place of meeting. Besides, when the insurgents appeared, and when emissaries who came from Servia by the Balkan succeeded in convincing the inhabitants

of Boyadjikeuy, the latter thus receiving encouragement prevented the Mussulmans from passing through their village. Hachem Effendi, the Kaïmakam of Yamboli, in the district of Islimié, and situated near Boyadjikeuy, repaired to the spot, accompanied by some zaptiehs, to find out for himself about this hostile attitude; he was forbidden to approach the village.

The Commandant of the Military Division at Islimié was at once informed of the bad turn affairs were taking, and repaired to Boyadjikeüy with a battalion and some volunteers. When he arrived before the village some old men came to meet him, and he asked them why they had prevented travellers, and in particular the Kaïmakam of Yamboli, from entering the village, and why they always met armed. The old men answered that they used to meet because they were afraid, and because they were powerless to make the younger members of their family listen to reason; whereupon they withdrew. Immediately after their departure some shots were fired at the soldiers, and orders were given to attack the village. During the action the larger part of the houses were burnt, and the cattle which were there fled in the direction of our troops, who caught them. But to assert in consequence of this that of the 2,000 souls who made up the population of Boyadjikeuy only fifty were spared, is monstrous. It has been clearly proved that the rumour sprang from reports made by the peasants themselves, and it is well known how inclined the peasants always are to exaggerate strangely any facts which may concern them.

According to the information I have received, and the investigations I have held, the number of Bulgarians killed in this deplorable affair is between seventy and eighty at most. In this number neither women nor children are included, with the exception of one woman who was hit by a ball. The peasants reckon their losses at 110; but they do not take into account the fugitives who fled elsewhere. As has been mentioned above, the few children collected in the Mussulman and Christian villages in the neighbourhood have been restored to their parents. We know, indeed, that one of them was entrusted to a Christian member of the Council at Yamboly.

As to the property and cattle which it is pretended were carried off, we have already explained that, as the Bulgarians had for a long time meditated a rising, they had buried any objects of value they might have had in their gardens or their fields, which they had afterwards taken care to till and sow. This is proved by the undeniable fact that they themselves took out these objects after the insurrection had been put down. Hence it is clear that they must have concealed their money in the same way.

The losses suffered by them can only consist of movables, implements of husbandry, cattle, and provisions. But how could these men, the majority of whom themselves set fire to their villages, expect to lose none of their property? Have not the Mussulmans, whose houses were burnt by the insurgents, lost everything?

It is none the less, however, an acknowledged fact, and it is unhappily our duty to place it beyond the possibility of denial, that those villages which, like Otloukkeuy, were occupied by main force, were pillaged by the peasant-volunteers of the neighbourhood.

As to the cattle, I must draw attention to the fact that part of the animals dispersed throughout the pasturage during the insurrection had been entrusted to the guard of our troops, while another part fell into the hands of the natives and Circassians.

Some cattle belonging to peasants in those districts where the pasturages are situated near to the villages that have been attacked have been also carried off, but as soon as the authorities were informed of this theft they sent detachments of troops and mounted police into the villages suspected of concealing the stolen cattle, with orders to take forcible possession of them, and restore them to their real owners, even had the latter been among the insurgents who had made their submission.

Every animal found in the possession of the spoilers, and not claimed by their owners, were sent to the flocks entrusted to the keeping of the authorities, to be afterwards returned to those heirs of the peasants who had fallen in the struggle who might have a lawful claim to them.

The people had, moreover, been informed that any news given to the authorities of the confiscation of head of cattle, to the injury of their real owners, would be followed by the immediate resumption of the cattle, and its restoration to the lawful owners.

Thanks to these regulations, determined on by the Imperial authorities, it has been possible to restore to their owners a considerable number of animals found among the flocks entrusted to the keeping of the overseers, or in the possession of individuals who had appropriated them.

Nevertheless, there are still some owners of property whose participation in the rebellion has hindered them from coming forward, and others who only think of making their escape on the pretext of going in search of their cattle; hence the fact that there are always large flocks under the keeping of the Government officials.

It is needless to repeat that, as the insurrection, which broke out towards the end of April, did not last long, the harvests have not suffered. Thanks to God, this year the husbandry in this district has been most favourably treated, and the wheat, hay, and rye crops are excellent. As the peasants have already returned to their homes, the harvest has already begun, and the produce is carried to the barns. The yield of maize is also good.

The line of action adopted by us in reference to the harvest has been the same as for the cattle.

Public notice was given that the produce would be restored to the owners, if alive, and to the heirs, if their relations were dead.

All those who were compromised by their proceedings in the insurrection, and who expressed sorrow for their conduct, have been authorised to return to their homes. Those whose houses had been burnt have hastened to erect temporary huts where they are taking shelter. Nevertheless, as they rendered themselves the tools of foreign instigators, and were the first to show their hatred to the Mussulmans, they are not yet fully convinced of the pacific feelings entertained by the latter, but their mutual feelings of suspicion and hesitation is diminishing every day. The Imperial Government, for its part, is doing its utmost to restore confidence in the minds and tranquillity in the hearts of the two parties. The Government is paying the greatest attention to those who have suffered loss and claim its help.

Some Consular reports and certain newspapers allude to the feelings of hatred and contempt still existing in the hearts of the Mussulman peasantry against their Bulgarian fellow-countrymen. But they forget to take into account a state of affairs which threatened to destroy all Bulgaria with fire and sword. What country is there in the world where civil war has carried its ravages and raised popular passion to such a pitch, where we see the antagonists of yesterday at peace to-morrow? What man is there who can look with any confidence on his enemy who, after having attacked his life, his property, and his honour, publicly confesses his feelings of hostility before his very judges?

I repeat that the Moslem population knew beforehand that the insurgents proposed to set fire to everything, and to plunge into a general massacre.

Nevertheless, when fire broke out at several points in the town of Philippopolis and the neighbouring districts of Tatar-Bazardjik, the Mussulmans, instead of allowing themselves to be drawn into excesses by the feeling of danger and of lawful self-defence, only thought of one thing—the safety of their country and the preservation of public order.

The Bulgarians, whom they looked upon as their brothers, and with whom they lived so many years in perfect harmony, suddenly declare themselves their foes, commit the most abominable outrages on them, and are not afraid to confess later that their object was to put them all to the sword.

Is it strange that, after this conduct, there should still remain in the hearts of these people a germ of hatred and distrust which can only disappear slowly?

No one, save the most implacable foes of this country, can look on such a state of affairs without a feeling of deep sorrow. But as a wound cannot close up the next day, so we must await the work of time, and the result of all the efforts which will be employed to secure this end, viz., the disappearance of all animosity, and the calming down of thoughts of vengeance.

It must be confessed that the conduct of the Bulgarian criminals before the Mixed Courts is not calculated to re-assure the Mussulmans. Their confessions and their arrogant style of disclosing their plans do not breathe sorrow or even regret for the past, but we know, happily, how as a nation Bulgaria disavows this language, and repudiates this haughty attitude, which provoke the smiles of the Moslem population.

The Imperial authorities, moreover, are doing their utmost to restore harmony among this population, and to put a speedy end to the accidental causes which have, for a short time, put them at variance.

After the true historic summary of the preceding facts, it only remains to implore the aid of the Almighty in favour of the efforts we have made for the restoration of order, confidence, and security among a people so deserving of the interest taken in them, and so severely tried by undeserved calamity.

No. 30.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

My Lord, *Salonica, July 21, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of my Report of this date to Sir Henry Elliot, with copies of its two inclosures, relative to the measures which are adopted by the provincial, civil, and military authorities to properly organize and keep in discipline the volunteers which are being recruited for service in Servia and Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, July 21, 1876.*

THIS morning I addressed to your Excellency a telegram, worded as follows:—

"Provincial, civil, and military authorities, acting under special instructions from Porte, are taking measures for most stringent prevention and punishment of any misconduct of volunteers."

I now beg leave to inclose the translated copy of a circular telegram which has been received by the provincial authorities from the Porte, in connection with the above subject.

Great numbers of volunteers have been recruited in this town and adjacent villages, more than 1,000 are now assembled in Salonica, I believe; and as they are all armed, and evidently not yet properly organized or disciplined, their presence, judging from all I hear, is a source of alarm and inconvenience to the community. So far, however, they have not molested the people or otherwise misconducted themselves in this town. But I am concerned to say that I am informed by an impartial source, that some detachments of these volunteers, while marching through the villages, committed irregularities and outrages.

The Pasha of Salonica has taken measures against the suspected parties. Yesterday he arrested and disarmed sixty of these volunteers, and put them in irons in the town fort. He has also issued special instructions to the authorities, of which I inclose a translated copy, making the commanding officers strictly and personally responsible for the conduct of their men.

The Commander-in-chief, Dervish Pasha, on his arrival at Mitrovitza, took energetic steps to show to the volunteers that he had the power, and was determined to use it, to bring them under submission to military order and discipline; he caused five volunteers who were convicted by court-martial of plundering a Christian village to be publicly executed, and sixty-five others received the bastinado, in the presence of the garrison, for disorderly conduct in the town.

I have seen a recent letter from a merchant at Mitrovitza stating that the determination and severity displayed by Dervish Pasha have produced a feeling of security among the Christian inhabitants in that town and district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Circular Telegrams from the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)

NOUS apprenons que parmi les volontaires qui se rendent à la guerre pour l'amour de la patrie, il se trouve des mauvais sujets qui durant le voyage maltraitent les sujets fidèles, et les pillent.

Les devoirs de ces volontaires n'étant que d'aller à la guerre pour défendre la patrie et faire le service militaire, il faut saisir tous ceux qui osent tenir une mauvaise conduite, et les fusiller.

Les officiers aussi seront tenus responsables des actes de leurs volontaires.

(Signé) MEHMET RUSHDI, *Grand Vizir.*

Dépêche Vizirielle adressee au Vilayet de Salonique.

Nous vous expédierons par la poste les instructions imprimées qui vous indiqueront les punitions à infliger à ceux des volontaires qui se conduisent mal. Comme il est nécessaire de leur donner connaissance des intentions du Gouvernement, je vous envoie la dépêche ci-dessus.

Veuillez l'imprimer et en distribuer des exemplaires dans les villes, villages et bourgs, et à chaque personne.

S'il y a des mauvais sujets qui se conduisent mal un Tribunal Extraordinaire les jugera, et la peine que ce Tribunal prononcera sera exécutée immédiatement. et en suite vous nous donnerez rapport de ce que vous aurez fait. Quant à leurs camarades qui assisteraient sans se mêler à quelque acte mauvais, ils seront désarmés, et renvoyés à leurs foyers.

Le $\frac{6}{18}$ *Juillet*, 1876.

(Signé) MEHMET RUSHDI, *Grand Vézir.*

(Translation.)

WE have received information that among the volunteers repairing to the seat of war for love of their country there are some scoundrels who on the way ill-treat faithful subjects and plunder them.

As the duties of these volunteers only extend to repairing to the seat of war and performing military service, all those who dare to conduct themselves amiss are to be seized and shot.

The officers will be held responsible for the acts of the volunteers under their command.

(Signed) MEHMET RUSHDI, *Grand Vizier.*

Vizirial Despatch addressed to the Vilayet of Salonica.

We will send you by post printed instructions acquainting you with the penalties to be inflicted on any volunteers whose conduct may be amiss. As it is necessary that they should know the intentions of the Government I inclose the above despatch.

Be so good as to print and distribute copies in the towns, villages, and hamlets, and to all inhabitants.

If there are any rascals who conduct themselves amiss an Extraordinary Tribunal shall try them, and the sentence pronounced shall be at once put into execution, and you will at once report to us what you have done. As for their fellow-soldiers who may have helped them without actually taking part in any act worthy of censure, they shall be disarmed and sent back to their homes.

(Signed) MEHMET RUSHDI, *Grand Vizier.*

July $\frac{6}{18}$, 1876.

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

Instructions to District Authorities on Recruitment of Bashi-Bazouks or Volunteers.

(Traduction.)

TOUS ceux qui désirent servir comme volontaires doivent se présenter chez l'Imam, Moukhtar et Conseil des Anciens du village et prendre des certificats déclarant qu'ils sont des honnêtes hommes; puis on se présentera au chef-lieu du district où le recrutement s'opère pour exhiber les certificats. Ceci concerne les villages.

Les volontaires des villes aussi doivent se munir de mêmes certificats des chefs de leurs quartiers.

2. Les volontaires des villages qui veulent se rendre au chef-lieu du district pour être inscrits, doivent, en cas qu'ils sont en nombre assez fort, être accompagnés soit de l'Imam, soit du Moukhtar, soit d'un Membre du Conseil des Anciens, afin d'empêcher des vexations durant leur voyage, sur les villages qu'ils traversent.

3. Les villageois qui se réuniront au chef-lieu du district exhiberont leurs certificats au Conseil d'Administration, qui les légalisera et les rendra aux volontaires pour qu'ils les présentent aux officiers chargés de l'enrôlement.

De la date du jour de leur enrôlement des vivres leur seront donnés. En conséquence ils seront obligés de se conduire régulièrement comme des militaires pendant leur séjour

au centre du district ; ils traîteront tout le monde honnêtement. Chaque dix volontaires auront un caporal, et chaque deux caporaux un sergent pour veiller à la discipline et au service. Dans les divers centres des localités où les enrôlements seraient nombreux dès que les volontaires arriveront au chiffre de 50 ou 60, il faut les expédier sans attendre d'autres, ou à Salonique ou à l'endroit qui leur sera indiqué. Ces volontaires seront accompagnés ou d'un membre du Conseil d'Administration ou d'un des notables de la ville.

4. L'intention d'appel de ces volontaires étant pour défendre la religion, la nation, et la patrie, chaque volontaire qui sera sous les armes ne doit pas partir avec mauvaise intention, malice ou intention de piller ou maltraiter son voisin. Enfin il doit se conduire convenablement et humainement, et il doit s'abstenir de tous actes inhumains, soit dans les lieux de leur résidence soit pendant le voyage.

Ils ne prendront rien gratis et ne feront supporter aucun mauvais traitement à qui que ce soit.

Pour arriver à une bonne discipline dans le sens que nous indiquons nous en appelons à la sagesse des chefs. Peut-être il y aura des individus qui se conduiront contre les intentions et désirs du Gouvernement Impérial ; ceux-là seront mis hors de l'armée et en même temps eux et ceux qui se sont portés garants de leur conduite seront punis suivant le code.

Comme aux officiers incombe la responsabilité de la bonne conduite de leurs hommes il faut qu'ils fassent attention continuellement, et mettent en exécution immédiate la discipline militaire. En cas contraire ils seront considérés personnellement responsables.

Dans le cas de mauvaise conduite des dites troupes elles seront punies suivant le règlement militaire par un conseil de guerre. Il faut que la punition soit sevère et immédiate suivant le degré de culpabilité, pour servir d'exemple aux autres.

Enfin pendant que les volontaires seront sous les armes ils seront entièrement sujets au règlement militaire.

(Translation.)

ANY one desiring to serve as a volunteer must present himself before the Imam, the Moukhtar, and the Council of the Elders of the village to receive a certificate setting forth that they are honest men ; then they are to come to the chief town of the Department where recruiting is going on to exhibit their certificates. Thus much concerning the villages.

The volunteers in the towns must also provide themselves with similar certificates from the chiefs of their quarters.

2. The volunteers in the villages who wish to present themselves at the chief town of the district to be inscribed, must, if they are sufficiently numerous, be accompanied either by the Imam, or by the Moukhtar, or by a member of the Council of Elders, in order to prevent annoyances on the road in the villages through which they pass.

3. The villagers who present themselves at the chief town of the district are to show their certificates to the Administrative Council, who will legalise them, and return them to the volunteers for presentation to the officers entrusted with the enrolment of recruits.

There is to be a corporal to every ten volunteers, and a sergeant to every two corporals, to superintend discipline and the duties of the service. In the several chief places of those districts where there are numerous enlistments, whenever the number of volunteers reaches a total of 50 or 60, they must be dispatched without waiting for others, either to Salonica or to the destination which will be assigned to them. These volunteers are to be accompanied either by a member of the Administrative Council or by a notable of the town.

4. Since the object of the appeal to these volunteers is to defend our religion, the nation, and our country, no volunteer under arms ought to start with evil intentions, malice, or the purpose of pillaging or ill-treating his neighbours. Lastly, he ought to conduct himself with propriety and humanity, and ought to abstain from all inhuman acts, whether in the places in which he is quartered or on the road.

The volunteers are not to take anything without payment, nor in any way to ill-treat any one.

We appeal to the wisdom of the Chiefs to bring about the good discipline we have set forth. Possibly there may be individuals who may act in a manner contrary to the intentions and wishes of the Imperial Government ; such persons will be dismissed the army, and at the same time both they and those who have been guarantees for their conduct will be punished in accordance with the code.

Since the responsibility for the good conduct of their men falls on the officers, it is necessary that they give continual attention to military discipline and carry it into instant execution. Otherwise they will be considered personally responsible.

In the case of ill-conduct on the part of the said troops, they shall be punished

according to military law by a Council of War. The punishment must be severe and immediate according to the degree of guilt, in order to give a warning to the rest.

Lastly, while the volunteers are under arms they shall be entirely subject to military law.

No. 31.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

My Lord, *Scutari, July* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch this day addressed by me to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the position in which I found the Turkish forces on my recent visit to Podgoritza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, July* 24, 1876.

YESTERDAY I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency that I had returned from Podgoritza, where I had found that the Turkish forces along the front do not exceed 7,000 regulars and 5,000 Bashi-Bazouks, and that they must consequently act strictly on the defensive, especially as the irregulars cannot be trusted at the outposts nor to convey stores or invalids.

An impression appeared to prevail among the military at Podgoritza that they were being exposed to great danger through the delay that was taking place at head-quarters in Constantinople to forward reinforcements, and that, at any moment, an attack in strength by the Montenegrins might lead to disaster.

I also ascertained that on the 17th instant four, and not only three, of the block-houses between Podgoritza and Medun had been abandoned by the Turks, and razed to the ground by the Montenegrins. These blockhouses were mere loop-holed huts, capable of holding about five and twenty men each, and had been closely besieged by the Montenegrins since the commencement of hostilities. As they in no way rendered secure the communications with Medun, their existence was a source of weakness to the Turks, who, each time they wished to provision them or relieve the guards, were obliged to engage the enemy on mountainous and rocky ground most advantageous to him.

Medun is garrisoned with three companies of infantry and a sufficient number of artillerymen, and is fully provisioned for three months. The fort is quite safe from all sudden attacks, and can only be taken by regular siege operations, which the Montenegrins apparently have no means of carrying out. It is within a march of two hours and a half of Podgoritza, and the probability is that a serious engagement will be fought in a few days in its vicinity, when the Turkish forces attempt to reestablish free communications between the two points.

The losses of the regular troops at Podgoritza have been, up to the present time, according to official information, which I have checked as far as possible, twenty killed and eighty-five wounded. The Bashi-Bazouks, who consist of the Mohammedan and Roman Catholic mountaineers of North Albania, have hitherto kept on the outskirts of the fighting, and have lost but few of their numbers, and have made it evident that they are only fit to act on the defensive, should the Montenegrins venture much beyond their own borders.

The 7,000 Turkish regulars are not concentrated at Podgoritza, but are divided among the fortifications extending from Jablak to Spuz and Medun, and engaged in conveying stores, &c., to Podgoritza, from the shores of the lake at Podhum, and there are seldom more than 4,000 available at Podgoritza for an emergency.

The forts of Azizieh, Chefketieh, and Spuz, with the connecting block-houses, have hitherto kept the enemy from the Velib'rdo and Malob'rdo, where, in former wars, most of the fighting had to be done, greatly to the disadvantage of the Turks.

During the three nights that I passed at Podgoritza almost incessant firing went on at the outposts, not a mile from the town, as Montenegrin scouts endeavoured to shoot the sentries, but when I visited most of the outlying forts and block-houses during the daytime the Montenegrins did not show themselves.

The Commissariat, ambulance, and medical arrangements of the Turks are most defective, and, as is usual in Turkey, nothing is forthcoming when wanted, and everything must be asked for from Constantinople through the General in command, whose requests as frequently remain unheeded as not, so that the purely administrative details of the forces under his command overwhelm him and prevent him from devoting all his attention to the enemy. Even ready money wherewith to buy information from spies and others is often not obtainable. All these evils are, however, greatly mitigated through the wonderful patience, sobriety, discipline, and courage of the troops, officers as well as men. As an instance of the little attention paid to necessary wants by the Government, I may state that, most of the officers up to the rank of major, are unprovided with revolvers, though they have constantly to lead their men, thus almost unarmed, through ground where they may, at any moment, meet an enemy face to face.

Although a great deal is heard of the atrocities of the Mohammedans against the Christians in other parts of the Empire, here, in North Albania, where Moslems are daily being shot down by the Montenegrins and by rebel Slav tribes, the Turkish troops, both regular and irregular, have not committed a single act which could be called an outrage. Many of the peasantry near Podgoritza are known to sympathize with the Montenegrins, but, still their crops are standing and they carry on their agricultural labours unmolested on each side of the military high roads. I myself, as a European, have met with more than courtesy from all ranks in the Turkish army, and the only feeling I have been able to observe is one of resignation at having to carry out a war which has been forced upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 32.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

My Lord, *Scutari, July* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, and reporting to his Excellency the praiseworthy conduct of the Governor of Prisrend in defending the Christians against an attack from the inhabitants of the district of Luma.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Consul Kirby Green to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Scutari, July* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report that a body of volunteers from the district of Luma, near Prisrend, and numbering about 1,400, were on their way last week to join the Turkish forces on the Servian frontier, when they sent to inform the Governor of Prisrend that they intended on passing through that town to pillage the Christian houses.

Fehim Pasha upon receiving this message immediately collected the notables of Prisrend, and went to meet the Lumayians in order to dissuade them from carrying out their threat, but to so little purpose that he and the notables had to take to flight to save their own lives, the Pasha and Kadi having been both slightly wounded.

On his return to Prisrend the Pasha made immediate preparations to oppose the Lumayians, and armed all the inhabitants, both Mahommedans and Christians, so that on the arrival of the volunteers they were driven back with a loss of upwards of forty killed.

The Lumayians have now returned to their own district, and have intercepted the communications on the high road between this and Prisrend, but Fehim Pasha is preparing a force with which to bring under subjection the lawless tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 33.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 7.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 1, 1876.

THE telegram of which I have the honour to inclose a copy appeared in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of the 30th ultimo, announcing from the head-quarters of Prince Milan that Dervisch Pasha had sent orders to all the commandants of the regular and irregular troops to massacre the Christians wherever found; also that eleven villages and a church had been burnt and the inhabitants massacred.

The "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of this morning contains a formal and positive denial of the truth of this information, which has been inserted in an article by the Turkish Ambassador, of which copy is annexed.

This sensational intelligence was evidently forwarded to the foreign press for the purpose of inciting public opinion against Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of July $\frac{18}{30}$, 1876.

Paratchine, Vendredi, le 28 *Juillet,* 1876.

ON annonce officiellement que Dervich Pacha a envoyé de Mitrowitza (station du Chemin de Fer de Salonique) à tous les Commandants de troupes régulières aussi bien que de Bachi-Bozouks, l'ordre de massacrer tous les Chrétiens, où qu'on les rencontre. Onze villages et une église ont déjà été brûlés et les habitants massacrés.

(Translation.)

Paratchine, July 28, 1876.

IT is officially announced that Dervish Pasha has sent orders from Mitrowitza (station on the Salonica Railway) to all the commanders of regular troops as well as of Bashi-Bazouks, to massacre all the Christians wherever they are met with. Eleven villages and one church have already been burnt and the inhabitants massacred.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{July } 30}{\text{August } 1}$, 1876.

L'AMBASSADE Impériale Ottomane de Saint-Pétersbourg dément formellement la teneur du télégramme daté de Paratchine, 28 Juillet, et publié par la plupart des journaux, prétendant que Dervich-Pacha aurait envoyé, de Mitrovitza, à tous les commandants de troupes régulières, aussi bien que de Bachi-Bozouks, l'ordre de massacrer tous les Chrétiens où qu'on les rencontre.

Elle dément également la version concernant la destruction de onze villages et d'une église.

(Translation.)

THE Imperial Ottoman Embassy at St. Petersburgh formally denies the tenour of the telegram dated from Paratchine, the 28th July, and published by most of the newspapers, pretending that Dervish Pasha had sent orders, from Mitrowitza, to all the commanders of regular troops, as well as of Bashi-Bazouks, to massacre all the Christians wherever they were met with.

It denies likewise the version given of the destruction of eleven villages and a church.

No. 34.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1876.

HER Majesty's Government consider it most important that an English Consular Officer should be appointed at Philippopolis, in Bulgaria, without delay. The post need only be a temporary one, and I have to instruct your Excellency to report what you consider requisite as to the salary to be assigned to it; arrangements in that respect will be made when your report has been received.

I have also to request your Excellency either to direct Mr. Dupuis to go to Philippopolis, and appoint some one to act at Adrianople, or to send some one specially to Philippopolis.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 35.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1876.

THE accounts of the atrocities committed in Bulgaria continue to give rise to discussion, and are exciting much reprobation, and I have to instruct your Excellency to make further representations to the Porte on this subject. You cannot speak too strongly of the horror which the statements received have aroused in the Government and people of this country.

I have also to instruct your Excellency to report when the insurrection in Bulgaria was suppressed; whether disturbances are still going on; whether any outrages continue to be committed; if not, when they ceased, and whether there is any fear of their being renewed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 36.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, August* 8, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, inclosing a copy of the report on the inquiry ordered by the Imperial Government in the vilayet of Adrianople, which has been presented to the Porte by his Excellency Edib Effendi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 37.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 9, 1876.

I HAVE strongly urged the Porte to liberate Bulgarians still in prison awaiting their trial. The Grand Vizier has promised me that, except as regards a few individuals regarded as ringleaders, this shall be immediately done.

---

* Substance of this was telegraphed.

No. 38.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August 9, 1876.*

IT appears to Her Majesty's Government that the capture of Saitschar may probably lead to the occupation of a considerable part of Servia by Turkish forces.

I have therefore to instruct your Excellency to urge strongly on the Porte that it is absolutely necessary that its troops should be kept under proper control; that the unarmed population should be spared; and that any repetition of the outrages committed in Bulgaria should be avoided.

Your Excellency will point out that any renewal of such outrages would prove more disastrous to the Porte than the loss of a battle. The indignation of Europe would become uncontrollable, and interference in a sense hostile to Turkey would inevitably follow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 39.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 9, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 9, 1876, 1 P.M.*

WITH regard to atrocities in Bulgaria, it is impossible to use stronger language than that which I have employed.

The Porte repeats the assertion that they were principally committed by the Mussulman populations, who, threatened with extermination, were made furious by the cruelties perpetrated on their countrymen by the insurgents, and not by Bashi-Bazouks.

The date when the insurrection was finally suppressed cannot be fixed, for large bands of insurgents remained in the mountains long after it was put down in the plain.

Some probably remain in the mountains still. No case of outrage has been reported to me for some weeks, the last I heard of being that for which I reported to your Lordship that three men had been hanged. No disturbances are now going on.

As long as the country is in its present unsettled state, instances of excesses and lawlessness must be expected; but unless the people should again rise upon the Mussulmans—who in that case would inevitably fall upon them as before—I do not anticipate a renewal of the excesses in Bulgaria.

It is certain that we shall hear of many acts of violence and pillage, in spite of all efforts of the Government to prevent them, from the districts through which the bodies of volunteers pass on the way to the seat of war.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE respecting Affairs in Turkey.

(In continuation of "Turkey No. 3, 1876.")

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. 1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

705

TURKEY. No. 4 (1876).

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

MURDER

OF THE

FRENCH AND GERMAN CONSULS

AT

SALONICA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

[C.—1547.] *Price* 1s 6*d.*

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No. 1.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May* 8.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 7 Mai,* 1876.

UN télégramme du Gouverneur-Général de Salonique, reçu hier soir à la Sublime Porte, porte ce qui suit :

Une jeune villageoise Chrétienne, qui avait embrassé l'Islamisme, étant arrivée par le chemin de fer à Salonique, quelques parties qui attendaient à la station allaient la conduire, d'après l'usage, à la résidence du Gouverneur-Général, lorsqu'environ 150 individus, que le Consul des Etats-Unis avaient réunis, ont assailli la jeune fille, arraché son voile et son manteau, et, l'enlevant de force, l'ont emmenée dans la maison d'un Chrétien, ce qui a exaspéré les Musulmans qui assistaient à cette scène de violence.

Bientôt la foule ameutée s'est portée en masse à la résidence du Gouverneur pour demander avec insistance que la jeune Musulmane y fut ramenée ; et, en attendant son arrivée, elle s'est réunie dans une mosquée. Tous les efforts tant de l'autorité que des notables étaient impuissants à dominer la foule, qui ne pouvait être dispersée que par la présence de la jeune fille ou par l'arrivée des troupes. En ce moment, le Gouverneur, informé que les Consuls d'Allemagne et de France avaient pénétré dans la mosquée envahie par la foule, s'y est immédiatement rendu en personne pour en faire sortir les Consuls et calmer les esprits ; mais tous ses efforts ont été inutiles. La jeune fille n'arrivant pas, la populace a arraché les barreaux des grilles, et, étant ainsi procurée des armes, s'est ruée sur les Consuls. Bien que le Gouverneur eût essayé par des efforts désespérés de les couvrir de sa personne, il a été impuissant à les protéger, et ils ont succombé sous les coups des assaillants. Sur ces entrefaites, les troupes accourues des stationnaires Ottomans et de la caserne sont parvenues à disperser l'émeute.

Par un second télégramme, arrivé dans la nuit d'hier à aujourd'hui, le Gouverneur-Général confirme la dispersion de l'émeute, et annonce que par mesure de précaution des sentinelles et des gendarmes ont été placés devant les Consulats et quelques autres habitations, qu'enfin l'ordre est rétabli et que les poursuites ont commencé par l'arrestation des coupables.

Ce douloureux événement a profondément impressionné la Sublime Porte, qui a résolu de sévir promptement et avec la plus grande rigueur contre les misérables auteurs du forfait. A cet effet, deux Commissaires Impériaux munis de pleins pouvoirs partent pour Salonique. Des délégués des Ambassades d'Allemagne et de France accompagnent ces Commissaires.

Veuillez communiquer ce télégramme à Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 7, 1876.

A TELEGRAM from the Governor-General of Salonica, received yesterday evening at the Sublime Porte, runs as follows :—

A young christian peasant girl, who had embraced Islamism, having arrived by railway at Salonica, some persons who were waiting at the station were going to conduct

her, according to custom, to the residence of the Governor-General, when about 150 individuals, whom the United States' Consul had assembled, attacked the young girl, tore off her veil and cloak, and, carrying her off forcibly, took her to the house of a Christian, which act exasperated the Mussulmans who were spectators of this violent scene.

A crowd soon formed and proceeded *en masse* to the residence of the Governor, to demand and insist on the restoration of the young Mussulman girl, and while awaiting her arrival, they assembled in a mosque. All the efforts both of officials and of prominent persons were powerless to control the crowd, which could only be dispersed by the presence of the young girl or the arrival of troops. At this crisis the Governor, informed that the German and French Consuls had penetrated into the mosque filled with the mob, proceeded thither in person, to bring away the Consuls and to calm the minds of the mob; but all his efforts were useless. As the young girl did not arrive, the populace wrenched away the bars of the windows, and having thus armed themselves, rushed upon the Consuls. Although the Governor made desperate efforts to shield them with his own person, he was powerless to protect them, and they fell under the blows of the assailants. In the meantime the troops hastily brought up from the Ottoman guardships and the barracks succeeded in dispersing the mob.

A second telegram, which was received during the past night, from the Governor-General, confirms the dispersion of the mob, and announces that, as a precaution, sentries and gendarmes have been stationed in front of the Consulates and some other dwellings; that at length order is restored, and that investigations have begun by the arrest of the guilty.

This lamentable event has made a profound impression on the Sublime Porte, and they have resolved to act immediately with severity and great vigour against the miserable authors of the crime. For this purpose two Imperial Commissioners, furnished with full powers, leave for Salonica. Delegates from the German and French Embassies accompany these Commissioners.

Be good enough to communicate this telegram to his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 2.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 8, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you the inclosed telegram, giving an account of a fanatical outbreak which has taken place at Salonica, at which the French and German Consuls have been assassinated, the latter being an Englishman.

I am to request that you will inform the Lords of the Admiralty, that upon the receipt of this intelligence, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople at once telegraphed to Athens to ask that the ship-of-war stationed there might be sent to Salonica.

His Excellency likewise telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout instructing him to inform the Admiral of what had taken place, and to request that a ship-of-war might also be stationed at Smyrna, as well as on the coast of Syria, and that some British vessels-of-war might frequently call at all parts of the coast.

I am to add that Her Majesty's Minister at Athens reports that Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" left the Piræus yesterday for Salonica, and expects to arrive there on Tuesday next.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 7, 1876, 9·30 P.M.

PORTE states that the origin of the catastrophe at Salonica was that a number of persons, headed by the American Consul, seized a Bulgarian girl in the street, who declared herself a Mahommedan, tore her veil off, and carried her off and concealed her.

This act caused great excitement among the Mahommedan population, and a large mob insisted on her being given up.

The French and German Consuls got to the mosque, where they were attacked, and the Governor affirms that on hearing of their danger he proceeded there with the Cadi, but his efforts to protect them from the fury of the people were ineffectual, who tore down the bars of iron from the windows, with which they were massacred.

The Governor states that he endeavoured to obtain assistance from the citadel and ships of war, but the soldiers did not arrive in time.

On hearing that the Governor and two Consuls were in the mosque, the Italian Consul went to the Commander of the troops to implore him to send soldiers to their assistance, but measures were not taken in time.

The Report of the American Consul proves that he took a principal part in seizing the girl, which led to the disturbance.

Her Majesty's Minister at Athens telegraphs that Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" would sail for Salonica immediately.

No. 3.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 8.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May 8, 1876.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that the following telegram has this day been received from Rear-Admiral Rice (second in command on the Mediterranean station), dated Malta, 8th instant :—

"Very serious disturbances by Mahometans. Assassinations Salonica. 'Bittern' proceeded there to-day from Piræus. I have informed Commander-in-chief at Jaffa."

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 4.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 8, 1876, 5·50 P.M.*

REPORTS from Consul Blunt state that Salonica remains quiet. British, French and Italian ships of war shortly expected.

No. 5.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 9.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May 9, 1876.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will inform the Earl of Derby that the following information has this day been received from Rear-Admiral Rice, the Senior Naval Officer at Malta, by telegraph, viz :—

"Following telegram just received from 'Bittern,' Salonica. Arrived this morning. Consul reports shocking murder on Saturday of French and German Consuls; latter British subject. No further outrage apprehended. When funeral conducted disturbance may occur. 1,000 troops and Imperial Commissioner arrived Constantinople. Drummond informed."

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 6.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 10, 1876.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Ambassador has reported by telegraph

that there are grounds for apprehending serious occurrences at Constantinople, and that great uneasiness prevails there among all classes.

For several days past the Mussulmans have been buying arms; but nothing certain is known of the designs that may be entertained.

Sir H. Elliot and the Ambassadors of the other Powers at Constantinople are of opinion that the presence of ships of war at Besika Bay might be a protection to the Christians there, and would give them confidence.

His Excellency accordingly telegraphed to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout to inform the British Admiral that he would be glad if he could bring the squadron under his command to Besika Bay, and that his early presence there would be very useful.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 7.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 10, 1876.

WITH reference to my letter of this day's date, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform the Lords of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to explain more fully his reasons for requiring the British squadron to proceed to Besika Bay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 8.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 11.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May* 11, 1876.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the Earl of Derby's information, that on the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, a telegram was immediately dispatched to Vice-Admiral Sir James R. Drummond at Jaffa, ordering him to proceed to Smyrna to await orders.

The ships which will go to Smyrna with the Admiral are the "Hercules," "Invincible," and "Pallas."

My Lords request that you will move Lord Derby to telegraph at once to Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna to secure 800 tons of coal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 9.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 11.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May* 11, 1876.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith copy of telegrams which have been received from Rear-Admiral Rice, at Malta, respecting disturbances which are apprehended to be imminent in the neighbourhood of Salonica, and I am to request that, in laying the same before Lord Derby, you will move his Lordship to cause my Lords to be informed whether he would wish any specific instructions sent to Malta for the guidance of the Captain of the "Swiftsure."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Rear-Admiral Rice to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Malta, May* 10, 1876, 10·45 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegram received (from) "Bittern," Salonica:—

"Presence of two ironclads urgently desired; signs of imminent disturbances in

adjoining districts and villages. Turkish and Russian Admirals arrived. Local authorities not provided with force necessary to preserve tranquillity.

"Have received your telegram to keep 'Swiftsure,' but dispatch her to-morrow noon, Salonica, with all dispatch. Have telegraphed Carthagena. 'Devastation' returns here immediately. Personally ready to proceed to Salonica, if required."

Malta, May 11, 1876.

"Will keep 'Swiftsure' until 3 this afternoon, in case no specific instructions."

No. 10.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 12, 1876.

IN reply to your letter of this day's date, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will state to the Lords of the Admiralty that his Lordship has no special instructions which he would wish given to the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," which is ordered to proceed from Malta to Salonica.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 11.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1876.

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday, and to your letter of this morning, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to request that you will inform the Lords of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reports that the state of things there is daily becoming worse.

It is, his Excellency states, expected that the agitation amongst the Mussulmans is directed more especially against the Government; at the same time, the position of the Christians is most critical, owing to the spirit of fanaticism which exists. It is doubtful whether the army can be depended upon to act against the Mussulmans.

The foreign Ambassadors have asked their Governments to send an armed gun-boat to Constantinople, in addition to the ordinary "stationnaire," and Sir H. Elliot considers it highly desirable that a British vessel should be sent there likewise.

The accounts from Salonica are also far from satisfactory. It is said that the Turkish force is not strong enough to ensure tranquillity at the funeral of the Consuls, and Her Majesty's Consul there, as well as the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern," think that the presence of two ironclads are much needed, and have telegraphed in this sense to the British Admiral.

Sir H. Elliot also telegraphed that his reason for asking that the British fleet should proceed to Besika Bay is that he believes it would conduce greatly to the security of the Christians at Constantinople, who are at present considered to be in much danger.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 12.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May* 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 8 *Mai*, 1876.

SUITE à mon télégramme d'hier.

Vous devinez la profonde et douloureuse impression que notre Auguste Maître a ressentie à la nouvelle de l'incident de Salonique. Aussitôt informée, Sa Majesté m'a ordonné d'en exprimer ses vifs regrets à MM. les Ambassadeurs d'Allemagne et de France;

elle a presque en même temps chargé son premier Aide-de-camp d'une mission analogue auprès MM. de Werther et de Bourgoing; elle a, en outre, décrété l'envoi immédiat par un bateau spécial de hauts Commissaires munis de pleins-pouvoirs et d'instructions formelles leur prescrivant de faire prompte et éclatante justice, et de punir d'une façon exemplaire les misérables auteurs de ce forfait. Ces Commissaires arriveront demain matin à leur destination. Je n'ai pas besoin de vous dire combien ce douloureux événement, survenu par une coincidence malheureuse, dans les circonstances actuelles, ce qui ajoute encore à sa gravité, a péniblement affecté le Gouvernement Impérial. Nous le déplorons d'autant plus amèrement que nous nous rendons compte de l'impression qu'il produira en Europe, et de la portée qu'aura cette impression.

Nous savons qu'il fournira matière aux plus injustes accusations de nos détracteurs, et que nos ennemis n'hésiteront pas à prendre texte de l'occasion pour grossir outre mesure les faits, imprimer à l'incident, dont nous sommes loin, d'ailleurs, de méconnaître toute l'importance, un caractère exceptionnellement grave et tel qu'il ne saurait le comporter; lui donner enfin la couleur d'un mouvement préparé et combiné froidement comme une manifestation de la haine entre Musulmans et Chrétiens, et de l'intolérance des premiers envers les derniers.

Certes, nous ne cherchons pas à atténuer des faits aussi regrettables; mais les quelques détails que nous en connaissons jusqu'à présent suffisent pour établir positivement qu'il n'y avait rien de préparé d'avance; qu'une malheureuse provocation a servi de point de départ, et que le reste a été amené par un fatal enchaînement de circonstances; que la foule, exaspérée par le procédé violent dont a été l'objet une femme qui avait l'extérieur d'une Musulmane, n'était pas armée lorsqu'elle s'est rendu au Conak et de là dans une Mosquée voisine pour attendre la remise de cette femme à l'autorité; que de même, lorsque les Consuls, entrés dans la Mosquée, y ont succombé, aucun coup de feu n'a éclaté, et que la populace ne s'est servie vis-à-vis de ses victimes que des barreaux des grilles qu'elle a arrachées et de couteaux.

Le Gouverneur-Général ajoute que cette femme, après avoir été entraînée dans une maison Chrétienne, avait été conduite dans celle du Consul d'Allemagne, et que celui-ci a autorisé son départ du Consulat par un billet écrit de la Mosquée au milieu de la foule.

Enfin, si cela avait été un mouvement prémédité, et si une foule aussi considérable avait été armée, nous nous demandons quel plus grand malheur nous n'aurions pas eu à déplorer, à quelle calamité nous n'aurions pas assisté!

Ce sont ces points essentiels, ces considérations très-importantes, que je signale à l'attention particulière de votre Excellence, qui saura, avec le tact qui le caractérise, réfuter les erreurs et les exagérations malveillantes avec lesquelles on essayerait d'influencer l'opinion publique.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 8, 1876.

IN continuation of my telegram of yesterday.

You may imagine the profound and painful impression that our august Master has experienced at the news of the occurrence at Salonica As soon as he was informed of it, His Majesty ordered me to express his great regret to the French and German Ambassadors, and almost at the same time he entrusted his first aide-de-camp with a similar mission to Messrs. Werther and Bourgoing; he, moreover, decreed the immediate despatch, by a special boat, of High Commissioners furnished with full powers and formal instructions to perform prompt and exemplary justice, and to punish in a striking manner the miserable authors of this misdeed. These Commissioners will arrive to-morrow morning at their destination. I need not tell you how much this painful event, arriving by an unhappy coincidence at the present moment, which adds still more to its gravity, has painfully affected the Imperial Government. We regret it all the more bitterly because we appreciate the impression that it will create in Europe, and the extent that that impression will take.

We know that it will furnish matter for the most unjust accusations of our detractors, and that our enemies will not hesitate to take advantage of the opportunity to magnify the facts beyond measure, and to attach to the incident, of which we are far, on the other hand, from undervaluing the importance, an exceptionally grave character, and one which should hardly be attributed to it; that they will give it, in fact, the appearance of a movement prepared and combined deliberately as a manifestation of the hatred between Mussulmans and Christians, and of the intolerance of the former towards the latter.

Certainly we do not seek to extenuate facts so regrettable, but the few details that we

are at present in possession of suffice to establish positively that nothing was prepared beforehand; that an unfortunate provocation was the origin and that what followed was brought about by a fatal chain of circumstances; that the crowd, exasperated by the violent proceeding with reference to a woman who was clad as a Mussulman, was not armed when it proceeded to the konak, and thence to a neighbouring mosque, to await the restoration of this girl to the authorities; and that, also, when the Consuls, who had entered into the mosque, were killed there, there was no shot fired, and that the populace only employed against their victims the bars which they had torn from the windows, and knives.

The Governor-General adds that this woman, after being dragged off to a Christian house, was taken to that of the German Consul, and that he authorized her departure from the Consulate by a note written from the mosque in the middle of the crowd.

Finally, if this had been a premeditated movement, and if so large a crowd had been armed, we ask ourselves whether we should not have to deplore a much greater misfortune, and whether we should not have assisted at a still greater calamity.

These are the essential points, the very important considerations, which I call to the particular attention of your Excellency, who will know how, with that tact which characterizes you, to refute the errors and the malevolent exaggerations with which people will try to influence public opinion.

No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 7, 1876.*

A DEPLORABLE occurrence took place yesterday at Salonica, which resulted in the death of the French and German Consuls, the latter of whom, Mr. Abbott, was a British subject, and, I believe, three other persons.

The account received by the Porte of the origin of the disturbance is that a number of persons headed by the American Consul (who is a Greek or Bulgarian by nationality) forcibly seized in the street a Bulgarian girl who had embraced Mahommedanism, tore off her veil, and carried her away to a place of concealment. Great excitement was caused among the Mahommedan population by this act, and a large mob called for her restoration to them. During the commotion the two Consuls found their way to a Mosque—for what reason is at present unexplained—where they were slaughtered by the populace, who armed themselves with iron bars torn down from the windows.

The Governor states that on hearing of their danger he proceeded with the Cadi to the Mosque, but his efforts to protect them were fruitless. He also sent to the citadel and ships of war for soldiers, but they arrived too late.

The Italian Consul reports that on hearing that the Governor and the two Consuls were in the Mosque, he went to the commander of the troops to ask him to send men to their assistance, but the measures were not taken in time.

The report of the American Consul appears to confirm the fact of his having taken a leading part in the seizure of the girl, which led to the catastrophe, as it would probably have done in any Turkish town.

Mr. Blunt reports great irritation among the Mussulmans, who are all armed; and he has telegraphed to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens to send a ship of war for the protection of British subjects. This request I have repeated; and Mr. Stuart telegraphs that Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" is to proceed immediately to Salonica. At the same time knowing that Vice-Admiral Drummond is now, or is shortly to arrive at Beyrout with part of the Mediterranean squadron, I have telegraphed to Mr. Eldridge to inform him of the occurrences at Salonica, and of my opinion that under the circumstances vessels should be stationed at Smyrna and on the coast of Syria, and that some of our ships of war should be frequently seen at all parts of the coast.

This afternoon there was a meeting of the Representatives of the Guaranteeing Powers at the Russian Embassy, at which Rashid Pasha was present. He was charged with a message from the Sultan to us all, and especially to the Ambassadors of France and Germany, expressing His Majesty's regret and indignation at the occurrences at Salonica, and his determination that exemplary punishment should be inflicted on the guilty: and his Excellency offered to take any measures which the Representatives might suggest.

The Grand Vizier had already promised the French and German Ambassadors that the funerals of their Consuls should be conducted with every honour, but we thought it

advisable that they should be deferred until there is no fear of their causing further disorders.

We proposed the immediate dispatch of an Imperial Commissioner, to whom should be attached delegates of the Governments especially interested. We insisted that sentence must be passed on the guilty and execution of it ordered without delay, and that notification of it shall be published throughout the Empire. We suggested that a circular should be sent to all Governors-General, Governors, and Sub-Governors, holding them responsible for any outrages which may occur in their districts. We intimated that ships of war would be sent by the different Governments to Salonica, and that we expected them to be suitably received. Lastly, we called attention to a portion of the Turkish press which is preaching the duty of a holy war against the Christians.

Raschid Pasha agreed to everything, and promised that all our demands should be fulfilled.

The German Consul having been a British subject, I have named Mr. Consul Blunt to act as delegate with those of France and Germany, who leave with the Turkish Commissioner this afternoon, and I have instructed him to concert with his colleagues on their arrival.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 14.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 8, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose translations of two telegrams from the Governor-General of Salonica to the Porte respecting the murder of the Consuls, and of the official communication of the nomination of the Commission of Inquiry, one member of which, Eshref Pasha, showed great energy in the investigation of the late massacres at Podgoritza. He has also been appointed Governor-General of Salonica.

I also inclose a copy of the American Consul's telegram to his Minister here, giving his version of the occurrences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Newspaper Extracts.

TELEGRAMS FROM THE "VALI."—Since the above was written, we have received communication of the account of the occurrence sent on Saturday to the Porte in two telegrams from Mehemet Refêet Pasha, the then Governor-General. Both messages are dated on Saturday. The first says:—

A Bulgarian girl of Avret-Hissar, in the neighbourhood of Salonica, who had embraced Islamism, arrived yesterday (Friday) evening by train at the Salonica Railway Station, for the purpose of authenticating her change of religion before the proper authority. She wore the "feredjé" and "yashmak" (the Turkish dress of mantle and veil). At her request three police zaptiehs, who were at the terminus, accompanied her for the purpose of conveying her to the "konak" (residence) of the Governor-General. On the way, two individuals on the part of the American Consul, attended by 150 other persons, took her away from the zaptiehs, tore her "yashmak" and "feredjé," and having made her get into a carriage, conducted her to the house of a certain Hadji Lazzaro. A crowd of Mussulmans, who were in the public garden and in the street, witnessed this carrying off of the girl. In consequence, about 5,000 Mussulmans came to-day (Saturday) to the Governor's "konak," demanding the restoration of the girl, and declaring that her forcible seizure and carrying off was a public affront. The local authority hastened to assure them that it had already taken steps to procure the restitution of the girl, and succeeded in dispersing the assembled mass of people. The latter, however, crowded into the Saatly-Djami Mosque, near the "konak," to insist upon their demand. As soon as I learnt of this assemblage, I took measures for the speedy restitution of the girl. I sent several local notabilities and superior functionaries to the mosque

to persuade the gathering to disperse; I immediately sent for armed assistance to the fortress to the Imperial corvette "Edirné," and to the ironclad on this station, and I ordered the "redifs" (reserves) to be called out. Meanwhile, the Consuls of France and Germany, together with a certain Banik-oglou, proceeded to the mosque in question, and advanced amidst the crowd, who sought to impede their further progress. Immediately people had come to tell me of this, I hurried to the mosque in company with the "cadi" (the judge). I did all in my power to appease the crowd; I spoke to them words of earnest advice and exhortation, while I awaited the arrival of the military. I endeavoured also, but in vain, to get the Consuls away. The girl being at that moment in the house of the Consul of Germany (Mr. Abbott), the latter wrote a note directing that she should be immediately brought to the mosque. But as there was delay in her arrival, the mob rushed upon the place where we were, and began to break the railings of the windows. Some of the rioters also went to get arms. We struggled body to body against the rioters to protect the Consuls, when, all of a sudden, the mob, entirely tearing away the window irons, fell upon the Consuls and assassinated them both. The crime had scarcely been perpetrated, when the girl arrived, and the rioters, on seeing her, began to disperse. The troops also soon reached the scene. At the present moment, I am taking all necessary measures for completely dispersing the rioters and restoring order.

A subsequent telegram from the Governor-General adds :—

The crowd, which was the cause of the lamentable event announced in my previous despatch, has dispersed. As a measure of precaution, I have stationed troops and police zaptiehs before all the Consulates and at other points where their presence was necessary. Public tranquillity is secured. The authorities have proceeded to the apprehension of the guilty parties.

Official Communication.—The Government also sends us the following notification :—

In consequence of the above telegrams from the Governor-General of Salonica, the Imperial Government has sent General Eshref Pasha, the new "vali" of Salonica, and Vahan Effendi, "musteshar" (Under Secretary of State) of the Ministry of Justice, to make an inquiry into this deplorable event and to discover the true causes and instigators of these crimes. Such are the measures adopted by the Imperial Government to ensure order and public tranquillity. The guilty, to whatever class they belong, will be punished in a prompt and exemplary manner.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

The American Consul at Salonica to the American Minister at Constantinople.

(Telegraphic.) *May* 7, 1876.

REVENU hier nuit en excursion Vodina, m'empresse communiquer désastreuses nouvelles. Vendredi soir jeune fille Chrétienne venant de Bogdanitza par chemin de fer accompagnée par Ottomans implorait secours pour sa religion. Chrétiens se trouvant gare vinrent son secours forcèrent une voiture qui m'attendait la transporter en ville. Samedi midi bandes Turques se dirigent palais Gouverneur réclamant fille, Gouverneur la croyant dans ma maison la réclama chez moi mais fut prouvé que fille était partie réfugiée ailleurs. Turcs parcouraient ville appelant fidèles aux armes. Consuls France Allemagne émus se rendant sur lieu furent entraînés mosquée où étaient réunis presque 3,000 Musulmans armés. Gouverneur à la mosquée mais ne peut les sauver et furent tous deux massacrés coups sabre. Ville plongée dans consternation; actuellement tranquillité règne mais esprits surexcités.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *May* 7, 1876.

RETURNED last night from an excursion to Vodina. Hasten to communicate disastrous news. Friday evening a young Christian girl coming from Bogdanitza by rail, accompanied by Ottomans, implored help in the name of her religion. Christians who were at the station came to her succour, and compelled a carriage which was waiting for me to carry her to the town. Saturday at noon bands of Turks go to the Governor's palace to demand the girl. The Governor, thinking she was in my house, sent there to claim her, but it was proved that the girl had sought refuge elsewhere. The Turks traversed the town, calling the faithful to arms. The French and German Consuls, in their excitement,

going to the scene of action, were dragged into a mosque, where were assembled nearly 3,000 armed Mussulmans. Governor was at the Mosque but could not save them, and both were massacred by the sabre. Town plunged into consternation. For the moment tranquillity exists, but there is much excitement.

No. 15.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 15.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 9, 1876.*

ON Sunday morning, the 7th instant, I received a note from Prince Gortchakow, informing me that he had just learnt from General Ignatiew, by a telegram dated the 6th instant, that the French and German Consuls had been dastardly ("lâchement") assassinated in broad day by a fanatical Mussulman population.

I had an interview with His Highness on the following day (Monday), and he communicated to me further telegrams which he had received from General Ignatiew, which reported exactly the same intelligence as contained in the telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the 7th instant, which reached me this morning.

His Highness appeared to be satisfied that the Porte had done, and was doing, all that could be expected in regard to the deplorable event at Salonica, and he stated that a Russian frigate had been ordered at once to Salonica to join the naval forces of the other European Powers for the protection of their subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 16.

The Turkish Commissioners at Salonica to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Salonique, le 13 Mai, 1876.*

AUJOURD'HUI, 13 Mai, trente-six hommes, plus ou moins compromis dans les événements de Salonique, ont été arrêtés sans le moindre bruit. La tranquillité y est parfaite. Demain les arrestations continueront.

Les Commissaires Impériaux,
(Signé) ECHREF.
VAHAN.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, May 13, 1876.*

TO-DAY, May 13, thirty-six men, more or less compromised in the Salonica affair were arrested without any commotion. There is complete tranquillity. To-morrow the arrests will continue.

The Imperial Commissioners,
(Signed) ECHREF.
VAHAN.

No. 17.

The Turkish Commissioners at Salonica to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Salonique, le 15 Mai, 1876.*

DEPUIS notre dernier télégramme dix-huit arrestations nouvelles. Elles continuent encore. Jugement commencé. Le châtiment sera prompt et terrible.

Les Commissaires Impériaux,
(Signé) ECHREF PACHA.
VAHAN EFFENDI.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, May* 15, 1876.

SINCE our last telegram, eighteen new arrests. They still continue. The punishment will be prompt and terrible.

The Imperial Commissioners,
(Signed) ECHREF.
VAHAN.

No. 18.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.——(*Received May* 15.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May* 15, 1876.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that on the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure" at Salonica, Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" has been ordered to proceed to Constantinople.

2. I am therefore to request that you will move the Earl of Derby to cause Her Majesty's Ambassador at that port to be informed, in order that, if necessary, the requisite Firman or authority for that vessel to pass the Dardanelles may be forwarded.

3. I am at the same time to request you will inform his Lordship that Vice-Admiral The Honourable Sir James Drummond will find orders on his arrival at Smyrna to proceed with his squadron to Besika Bay, after coaling, if necessary; also that the following telegram was received yesterday from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" at Salonica:—

"Tranquillity restored; thirty suspected persons arrested yesterday without disturbance; ten ships arrived."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 19.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 16.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May* 16, 1876.

WITH reference to my letter of yesterday's date and to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the Earl of Derby's information, the following copy of a telegram of yesterday's date, which has been received from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure" at Salonica:—

"Arrived last evening. Commissions have been held. More arrests made. General alarm subsiding. Three ships arrived this morning. French Admiral daily expected."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 20.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 16, 8·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 16, 1876, 6 P.M.

HER Majesty's Consul at Salonica telegraphs that sentence of death has been passed on some of the murderers, who will be executed to-night.

No. 21.

Raschid Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May* 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 15 *Mai,* 1876.

AINSI que nos Commissaires à Salonique ont dû vous le télégraphier, le nombre des personnes arrêtées jusqu'aujourd'hui s'élève à cinquante-trois. Les arrestations continuent

au milieu du calme et de la plus parfaite tranquillité. Les prisonniers ont été conduits bord du "Sélimié" où il est procédé à leur interrogatoire.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 15, 1876.

AS our Commissioners at Salonica have doubtless telegraphed you, the number of persons arrested up to to-day has risen to fifty-three. The arrests continue to be made quietly, and there is complete tranquillity. The prisoners have been taken on board the "Sélimié," where they are being examined.

No. 22.

The Turkish Commissioners at Salonica to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, May* 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Salonique, le* 16 *Mai*, 1876.

AUJOURD'HUI six des principaux coupables ont été jugés et exécutés publiquement; le jugement des autres continue; tranquillité parfaite.

Les Commissaires Impériaux,
(Signé) ECHREF.
VAHAN.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, May* 16, 1876.

TO-DAY six of the most guilty were tried and publicly executed. The proceedings in the other cases continue. Perfect tranquillity.

The Imperial Commissioners,
(Signed) ECHREF.
VAHAN.

No. 23.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 18.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May* 17, 1876.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Derby, copy of a telegram dated this day, which has been received from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure" at Salonica, respecting the state of affairs at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Captain Baird to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) "*Swiftsure,*" *Salonica, May* 17, 1876, 11·20 A.M.

SIX murderers condemned and executed yesterday evening. All of lower class. Caused no great excitement. This morning tranquillity prevails. Ships now in this port are two Turkish frigates and one iron-clad with Admiral, three French iron-clads, one corvette, one dispatch boat with Admiral, one Greek iron-clad, one German corvette, one Russian frigate, one Austrian corvette, one frigate with Admiral, one English iron-clad. Four German iron-clads reported having sailed for this port.

No. 24.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 19.)

My Lord, *Athens, May* 8, 1876.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, informing your Lordship that I had requested the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" to proceed to Salonica, in consequence of an alarming telegram which I had received from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the latter telegram.

Immediately after receiving it, at a few minutes before noon yesterday, I wrote to inform Commander Anstruther of its contents, and to request him to start as soon as possible; and I have pleasure in reporting that, although some of the officers were on shore when Mr. Beauclerk delivered my despatch to him, he managed to leave the Piræus at about 4 P.M., and that he expects to reach Salonica early to-morrow forenoon.

Upon ascertaining that the "Bittern" would be able to start as requested, I telegraphed to Sir Henry Elliot, to Vice-Admiral Sir J. Drummond, and to Mr. Consul Blunt, informing them respectively of the steps which I had taken.

Your Lordship will find copies of these several telegrams herewith inclosed, as well as a copy of my despatch to Commander Anstruther.

Telegrams have reached me this morning from Sir Henry Elliot and from the Vice-Admiral, showing that I had merely anticipated their wishes in the matter.

The distressing news of the murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica was received by the Hellenic Government this morning, and orders were given to a Greek gun-boat to proceed thither.

Rear-Admiral Boutakoff intends to start this evening for the same destination, on board the Russian corvette "Ashold," which is the only ship now at his disposal here. Had it not been for the present untoward event, he was to have taken the "Ashold" this week to Trieste to be placed in dock, on account of the injuries which she sustained when she went on shore the other day at the entrance of the Piræus harbour.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Stuart.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, May* 6, 1876.

VERY serious disturbances here by Mahometans; presence of British vessel of war necessary for protection of our interest.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Mr. Stuart to Commander Anstruther.

Sir, *Athens, May* 7, 1876.

HAVING received a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica, reporting that serious disturbances have broken out there, and that the presence of a British ship of war is necessary for the protection of British interests, I shall be obliged to you if you will have the kindness to proceed thither, as soon as possible, in the event of your instructions from the Vice-Admiral Commander-in-chief admitting of your doing so at my request.

I beg to inclose to you herewith a copy of Mr. Blunt's telegram for your information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure 3 in No. 24.

Mr. Stuart to Consul Blunt.

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May* 7, 1876.

YOUR telegram received this morning. "Bittern" starts this afternoon. Expects to arrive on Tuesday.

Inclosure 4 in No. 24.

Mr. Stuart to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May* 7, 1876.

HER Majesty's ship "Bittern" starts this afternoon for Salonica in consequence of alarming telegram from Consul.

Inclosure 5 in No. 24.

Mr. Stuart to Admiral Drummond.

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, May* 7, 1876.

"BITTERN" starts this afternoon for Salonica at my request, in consequence of telegram from Consul Blunt reporting very serious disturbances by Mahometans there.

No. 25.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 19, 1876, 10·35 A.M.

CONSUL BLUNT reports that after religious ceremony, conducted with great pomp at Roman Catholic church, Mr. Moulin's body was conveyed with all honours to quay, and committed to charge of French fleet under salutes. Guards of honour with officers from each foreign ship of war attended the procession.

No. 26.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 19, 1876, 12·25 P.M.

THE following just received from Consul Blunt, dated this day, 10·30 A.M.:—"Boats now returning after attending funeral. Everything conducted most satisfactorily. Town quiet."

No. 27.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, May* 19, 1876, 11 A.M.

CONSULS buried this morning with all honours. Everything conducted satisfactorily. Town quiet.

No. 28.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 19 *Mai*, 1876.

JE m'empresse de communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique que je reçois à l'instant des Commissaires Impériaux à Salonique.

Votre, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, May* 19, 1876.

I HASTEN to communicate to your Excellency herewith copy of a telegram which I have this moment received from the Imperial Commissioners at Salonica.

Your, &c.

(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 28.

The Turkish Commissioners at Salonica to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Salonique, le 19 Mai, 1876.*

AUJOURD'HUI ont eu lieu les funérailles des Consuls avec la plus grande pompe et dans l'ordre le plus parfait, à la satisfaction de tout le monde.

Les Commissaires Impériaux,
(Signé) ECHREF.
VAHAN.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, May 19, 1876.*

TO-DAY the funerals of the Consuls took place with the greatest pomp and amid the most perfect order, to the satisfaction of everybody.

The Imperial Commissioners,
(Signed) ECHREF.
VAHAN.

No. 29.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 10, 1876.*

THE telegrams which I have received to-day from Her Majesty's Consul at Salonica are not reassuring.

The Turkish authorities declare, and their statement is confirmed by the foreign members of the Commission of Inquiry, that they have not sufficient force at their command to ensure tranquillity at the public funeral demanded for the Consuls, or to allow of arrests being made.

The Commission are under the impression that the "military honours" demanded for the Consuls' funeral were to be paid, not only by a detachment of Turkish soldiers, but by men from the foreign ships of war, and the authorities fear the result of their presence. I have telegraphed to Mr. Blunt that, in my opinion, the ships of war should confine themselves to hoisting their colours half-mast high; but I find that both the French and German Ambassadors consider that armed bodies from the ships should attend the funeral. I shall, however, point out to my colleagues the unprecedented nature of this demand, and remind them that, at the time when the military honours were first insisted upon, there were no foreign ships of war at Salonica.

Both Mr. Blunt and the Commander of the "Bittern" consider the state of affairs sufficiently serious to make the presence of two iron-clads desirable, and have telegraphed in this sense to the Admiral.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 30.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 19.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 10, 1876.*

THE inclosed despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt contains his first hurried report, and as yet the only one I have received from him of the Salonica tragedy.

It appears that the two Consuls were the only victims, and how they got to the mosque is not fully explained, although, from the accounts received by some of my colleagues, it would seem probable that they were hustled into it while on their way to the Governor's house, which was close by.

The American Consul was not present, but it was in his carriage and to his house that the girl was conveyed, when taken by the Greeks from the hands of the police, who were conducting her to the Governor's House.

Some accounts state that the girl was herself urging to be delivered from the Mussulmans, but others intimate that she was a willing convert.

All that appears at present clear is, first, that the authorities were culpably negligent in not preventing excesses of which they had received ample warning; and, secondly, that the Greeks, by carrying off a professed Turkish woman, and tearing off her veil, committed an act calculated to call forth the fanaticism of the Turkish population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, May 7, 1876.*

AS the French "Fraissinet" steamer is detained a few hours to carry despatches from the French Consulate, I hasten to report to your Excellency what I know of the dreadful tragedy which was enacted yesterday, and about which I telegraphed your Excellency *en clair* yesterday afternoon and in cypher early this morning.

A Bulgarian girl of a village in the district of Salonica having embraced Mahometanism, had to come here to make before the Grand Council a declaration to that effect, a formality required by the local laws in regard to Mahomedan converts. On her arrival at the railway station on Friday evening, the 5th instant, some Greeks, who it appears expected her, seized her and tore off her ferijeh and yashmak. The Turks who accompanied her interfered, a scuffle took place, and the police on duty at the station separated the disputants, and succeeded in taking charge of her.

While they were conducting the girl to the konak, they were assailed on the road by a crowd of Greeks, who in their turn got possession of her and put her in the carriage of the American Vice-Consul, which was driving by at the time. She was conveyed to the American Consulate, the police running after the carriage as far as the town gate. The above incidents occurred about sunset.

Yesterday, about 11 o'clock A.M., some Mahomedans called on the Pasha and insisted that the girl should be brought to the konak. The Pasha thereupon sent a message to the American Consulate requiring the immediate presence of the girl at the Grand Council. The American Vice-Consul being absent (he had left Salonica with the Greek Consul on the 1st instant for Vodina), his brother, acting in his stead, declared, I am told, to the bearer of the Pasha's message that the girl had left the Consulate, and that he ignored where she could be found.

The Turks, in the meantime, becoming impatient at the non-appearance of the girl, warned the Pasha that, if he had not the power to deliver her from the Franks, they would attack the American Consulate; and from the konak they proceeded to the mosque in the vicinity, where other Mahomedans, principally Albanians (of whom there are many just now in this town), had assembled. They were all armed, and were making preparations, it is said, to attack the American Consulate. About this time M. Moulin, the French Consul, and Mr. Henry Abbott (a British subject), the German Consul, were seen going together to the Turkish quarter, with what object we do not know yet for certain—some people say that they had been induced by some Greeks to address a representation to the Governor-General about the girl's conversion; others, that they only went to see if it was true that the Mahomedans were irritated and had offensive intentions. Be this as it may, it appears that they went in the vicinity of the mosque, where they were surrounded by the Mahomedans, and were forced to enter the mosque. The mob became furious, and notice was sent to the Pasha, who immediately proceeded to the spot with some of the principal Turks, and entered the room of the mosque in which the two Consuls had taken refuge. The Pasha and some Beys, with a few officers of police, summoned the mob to disperse. They refused. The Consuls promised to have the girl brought to the konak, and wrote to Mr. Alfred Abbott, brother of the German Consul, to do so. No one in the Frank quarter was yet aware of the danger my colleagues were in, and it was only about half-past 3 o'clock I heard the circumstances from Mr. Alfred Abbott, whom I met near Her Majesty's Consulate, and who showed me a note from his brother stating that he, the French Consul, and the Pasha were forcibly detained in a mosque by a large mob, and that, to prevent serious complications, it was necessary to surrender the girl. I strongly urged Mr. A. Abbott to persuade those who had charge of the girl to send her immediately to the konak, where I would go to try and assist my colleagues. He promised to do so, and I started for the konak with my cavass.

On the way several Turks (unarmed) strongly dissuaded me from going, as there was danger.

I spoke to them, and begged them to assist me to save the Consuls. About six of them came forward and offered their services. They accompanied me, and we met M. Krawcski, the French Chancelier, who begged me not to go to the mosque, as the crowd was furious, and would not allow any Europeans to approach, and that he himself had been obliged to turn back, and was going to advise the other Consuls, and proposed I should accompany him.

Still hoping to be of some use to my colleagues, I went on, and on approaching the crowd the French Consular cavass seized me by the arms, and several other Turks surrounded and begged me not to venture further, said that the case was serious, and urged me to try and have the girl delivered up at once.

I ran to the konak, which was close by, and wrote a hurried note to the American Consulate—presuming the girl was there—pointing out the danger my colleagues were in, and insisted upon the girl being given up to the authorities. My cavass took the note to the American Consulate. The girl was not there, but Mr. A. Abbott discovered her in the house of M. Avyerinos, and gave her up to my cavass, by whom she was brought to the konak, but too late to save my colleagues—they were ruthlessly murdered.

The Pasha and the police were wanting in energy, determination, and courage, and as far as I have seen and heard, they appeared cowed by the mob, and by their conduct have lost the confidence of those who looked to them for protection, and the inhabitants are in a state of great alarm and consternation.

I must conclude, as the steamer is going in half-an-hour, and I beg your Excellency to excuse this hurried report, written in haste and under feelings of deep pain and sympathy for my much-lamented friends and colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—The Turkish population is still armed, and maintains a menacing attitude. The authorities have telegraphed to Uscup for troops, and one battalion is expected to-night.

J. E. B.

No. 31.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 22.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 9, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship, inclosed herewith, a copy of my Report, of the 7th instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador upon the murder of the French and German Consuls at this place.

Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" arrived here this morning, the French gun-vessel "Gladiateur" last night, and the Greek gun-vessel "Salamine" this morning. A Russian frigate is expected to-morrow, two Italian frigates on or about the 12th, and an Austro-Hungarian iron-clad on the 14th instant.

The "Izzedin," Ottoman despatch-boat, also arrived this morning with the Porte's Commissioners and a French and German delegate on board.

I keep Her Majesty's Ambassador regularly informed of what is going on, and the measures which are being taken to prevent any repetition of what has occurred.

Being in need of efficient assistance to conduct the growing business of the Consulate at the present crisis, I have solicited the permission of Her Majesty's Ambassador to avail myself of the services of Mr. George Blunt, British Vice-Consul for Cephalonia, who is here at present on leave of absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot, May 7, 1876.

[See Inclosure in No. 30.]

No. 32.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)

My Lord, *Berlin, May 18, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the German iron-clad squadron at present being formed, and consisting of the frigates "Kaiser," "Deutschland," "Kronprinz," and "Friedrich Carl," as also the aviso "Pommerania," will in the course of next week, and as soon as Rear-Admiral Batsch has assumed command, sail for Salonica; further, the gun-boat "Comet" has been commissioned for the same purpose, and the corvette "Medusa" is shortly to be expected there. The gun-boat "Nautilus," which was on her voyage from Malta to Port Saïd has been ordered to proceed to Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

P.S.—I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a French translation of an extract from the "North German Gazette" on the same subject.

O. R.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Extract from the "Correspondance de Berlin."

POUR protéger les Allemands en Turquie, les ordres suivants ont été donnés à la Marine Impériale Allemande:

La chaloupe canonnière "Komet" se rendra immédiatement à Salonique, où sera déjà arrivée la corvette "Medusa."

La chaloupe canonnière "Nautilus," qui était en destination de l'Asie Orientale, a reçu contre ordre et se dirige vers Constantinople, pour s'y joindre à la chaloupe canonnière "Meteor."

L'escadre cuirassée, se composant des frégates cuirassées "Kaiser," "Deutschland," "Kronprinz," "Friedrich Karl," et de l'aviso "Pommerania," se rend dans la Méditerranée.

La "Gazette Générale de l'Allemagne du Nord" donne les détails qui suivent sur ces navires de guerre:—

"Les deux frégates 'Kaiser' et 'Deutschland' ont chacune une cuirasse de 260 millim. d'épaisseur, une machine de la force de 8,000 chevaux, un armement de 9 canons, dont 8 de 26 centim., et 1 de 21,—et un équipage de 600 hommes.

"Les frégates 'Kronprinz' et 'Friedrich Karl' ont chacune une cuirasse de 115 millim. La machine du 'Kronprinz' est de 4,500 chevaux, et celle du 'Friedrich Karl' de 3,600; l'armement des deux frégates se compose de 16 canons de 21 centim., et leur équipage est de 500 hommes.

"La chaloupe canonnière 'Nautilus' a une machine de 450 chevaux, 4 canons de 12 centim., et porte 90 hommes.

"Le 'Meteor' (connu par son combat contre un aviso Français, dans les eaux de la Havane, le 9 Décembre, 1870), porte 3 canons de 12 centim., 50 hommes d'équipage et 3 officiers."

(Translation.)

THE following orders have been given to the Imperial German fleet with a view to protect Germans in Turkey:—

The gun-boat "Komet" is to proceed at once to Salonica, where the corvette "Medura" will have arrived by this time.

The gun-boat "Nautilus," which had been ordered to the East Indies, has received counter-orders, and is on its way to Constantinople to join the gun-boat "Meteor."

The iron-clad squadron, composed of the iron-clad frigates "Kaiser," "Deutschland," "Crown Prince," "Friedrich Karl," and the tug "Pommerania" will proceed to the Mediterranean.

The "Gazette Générale de l'Allemagne du Nord" gives the following details of the ships-of-war :—

The two frigates "Kaiser" and "Deutschland" have each armour 266 millimètres in thickness, are of 8,000 horse power, have 9 cannons, of which 8 are of 26 centimètres, and 1 of 21, and a crew of 600 men.

The frigates "Kronprinz" and "Friedrich Karl" have each armour 115 millimètres in thickness. The engines of the "Kronprinz" are of 4,500 horse power, and those of the "Friedrich Karl" of 3,600 horse power, the armament of the two frigates is composed of 16 guns of 21 centimètres, and their crew numbers 500 men.

The gun-boat "Nautilus" has engines of 450 horse power, 4 cannons of 12 centimètres, and carries 90 men.

The "Meteor" (known by its fight against a French despatch-boat, in the waters of the Havannah, on the 9th December, 1870), carries 3 cannons of 12 centimètres, a crew 50 men and 3 officers.

No. 33.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 22.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May 22, 1876.*

GERMAN iron-clad squadron will probably sail to-morrow; they expect to reach Salonica in about five weeks.

No. 34.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 22, 1876.*

WITH reference to your despatch of the 7th instant, reporting the deplorable occurrences that took place at Salonica on the 6th instant resulting in the death of the French and German Consuls, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the measures taken by your Excellency in consequence, for the protection of British subjects, and for the immediate punishment of the persons implicated in those outrages.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 35.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 23, 1876.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, reporting that a German iron-clad squadron has been ordered to Salonica.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 36.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 23, 1876.*

WITH reference to my letter of this day's date, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin stating that the

* Repeated to Paris, Vienna, Rome, St. Petersburgh, and Constantinople.
† No. 32.

German iron-clad squadron will probably sail on the 23rd instant, and expect to reach Salonica in about five weeks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 37.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 24, 1876.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me on the 13th instant, and said that he had been instructed by his Government to explain that, in consequence of recent events at Salonica and of apprehended further disturbances, his Government had determined to send four vessels, namely, two iron-clads to Salonica, and a gunboat to Constantinople, and, as I further understood him, another iron-clad to the Ægean Sea.

General Menabrea having stated that he was instructed to inquire what Her Majesty's Government intended doing with regard to the request of the foreign Embassies at Constantinople for naval support, I informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure" was going to Salonica, that the fleet was on its way to coal at Smyrna, and that, probably, a gunboat might go to Constantinople, but that this was not yet settled, and that I could not say whether a gunboat was available.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 38.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 25, 1876.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your instructions to Mr. Consul Blunt, as well as your communications to your colleagues upon the subject of the funeral of the late French and German Consuls at Salonica, as reported in your despatch of the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 39.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my Report of this date, with copies of its inclosures, to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador relative to the massacre of the French and German Consuls at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 14, 1876.

YESTERDAY I telegraphed your Excellency as follows:—

"The arrest of thirty-five Mahomedans accused of the murder of the French and German Consuls has been effected without giving rise to disturbances. They have been sent on board an Ottoman vessel of war."

I need not trouble your Excellency with a description of these arrests.

I shall only state at present that the Commissioners took all possible measures to repress disorder and to make their authority felt and respected, and that, although some

uneasiness and excitement prevailed, especially in the Frank and Greek quarters, every thing was managed by the Commissioners in safety, and in an able and firm manner.

For the moment the town is quiet, the presence in port of a strong naval force composed of Ottoman and foreign vessels, daily increasing in number, has reassured the Christian and Jewish inhabitants, and proves a valuable moral support to the Commissioners.

I am also happy to add that Mr. Gillet, Mr. Robert, M. Foscarini, and I acted cordially together throughout yesterday's operations.

Inclosure 1 is a list of the Ottoman and foreign vessels of war in port.

Inclosure 2. Copy of Captain Anstruther's instructions prepared in concert with me for the protection of Her Majesty's subjects.

Her Majesty's iron-clad "Swifture" and the French station ships are expected this evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

List of Turkish and Foreign Ships of War in the Port of Salonica on the 14th May, 1876.

Nation.	Name.	Description.	Guns.	Crew.	Commanders.	When Arrived.
Turkish	Edviné	Corvette	18	160	Osman Bey.	
„	Ijlalieh	„ iron-clad	5	180	Riza Bey.	
„	Selimié	Frigate	52	450	Hassan Bey	May 8
„	Sahir	Aviso	2	35	Omer Bey.	
French	Gladiateur	„	4	70	De Coudinon	„ 9
British	Bittern	Gunboat	3	95	Anstruther	„ 9
Greek	Salamine	Aviso	2	60	Chriases	„ 9
„	George I	Iron-clad	4	125	Sakturis	„ 10
Russian	Ascold	Corvette	8	309	Tirtoff	„ 10
Turkish	Mukbir I. Sourure	Frigate	16	319	Ali Riza Bey	„ 13
Italian	Maria Pia	„ iron-clad	19	..	Chinca	„ 13
French	Chateau Renaud	Corvette	7	210	Grivel	„ 13
British	Swiftsure	Iron-clad	14	500	Ct. Baird	„ 14
Italian	..	Gun-vessel	..	..	..	„ 14

Inclosure 3 in No. 39.

Arrangements made by the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" for the Protection of British Subjects in case of further Disturbances.

IN the event of any serious outbreak by day or night the following arrangements have been made, and are for the general guidance of any who are desirous of availing themselves of the British boats.

All such are to assemble at the British Consulate, to which, as quickly as possible, will be sent an armed force of seamen to escort and protect them to the boats.

The boats and an armed party of Marines will be sent to the Quarantine landing place.

No. 40.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 27.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour inclose copy of my despatch of this date, with copies of its inclosures to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the recent disturbances at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 14, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, extracts of two letters which I have received from the British Vice-Consulates at Larissa and Cavalla relative to the recent horrible occurrences at this place.

The Ottoman authorities have dispatched a vessel of war to Cavalla to render assistance to the authorities, and to maintain order.

The recent events at this place have created great sensation in all the towns in the interior, and a feeling of insecurity and alarm among the non-Mahomedan inhabitants and the Imperial Commissioners receive from all sides pressing applications to provide troops for their protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Larissa, May* 11, 1876.

LAST Sunday, the 7th, the authorities here, on an urgent request to that effect, received from those at your place, dispatched thither, overland through Tempé and by Kattrina, the cavalry troops which we had here stationed at Tirnovo. The cause of this move being unknown but to a few it attracted no attention, nor were we made aware, until Tuesday evening, the 9th, by the passage of a telegram for Janina, of anything regarding the shocking event of the massacre at Salonica of the French and German Consuls.

The local authorities pretending to have them not, and restrictions appearing to have been put to the free working of the telegraph, no authentic detail or particulars of the sad fact have yet reached us. No doubt these will arrive to-day at Volo by the "Fraissinet" steamer; and, as a man coming here this morning through Chaiyazee—who pretends to have been present and an eye-witness on the occasion, reports that through the interference only of your cavass, and of a Turkish friend (one or the other of whom was wounded) you escaped sharing the fate of your colleagues, I wait with feverish impatience a letter from you to relieve my anxiety on your account.

Meanwhile, I am unable to describe the painful impression the melancholy occurrence with you has made upon all here, not excepting most classes of the Turks; and as we learn that as many as ten war-ships, of all flags, already have assembled at your port, the greatest interest prevails as to what consequences may follow the committal of the recent outrage.

I hope you will favour me with information as to any results likely to attend it, and not omit adding any hints or instructions you may deem advisable under the circumstances.

Inclosure 3 in No. 40.

Acting Vice-Consul Gawelkiewicz to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) [*Not dated.*]

AUJOURD'HUI par la voie de terre nous avons appris le malheur arrivé à Salonique.

Le Directeur du Clergé Mahomédan à Cavalla est venu au Vice-Consulat pour exprimer ses regrets pour ce malheur et assurer de la part de la population que rien de pareil arrivera à Cavalla.

Mais dans le cas des troubles ou insurrection, quoique pour le moment la tranquillité existe (et j'espère que rien la troublera), ayant Mr. Davies à Cavalla pour protéger, veuillez, M. le Consul, me donner vos instructions concernant la protection de Mr. Davies et des archives du Vice-Consulat.

(Translation.)

(Extract.) [*Not dated.*]

WE have to-day learnt by land the misfortune that has happened at Salonica.

The Director of the Mahomedan clergy at Cavalla came to the Vice-Consulate to

express his regret for the unfortunate occurrence, and on the part of the population to assure that nothing similar will happen at Cavalla.

But in the event of troubles or insurrection, although for the moment tranquillity exists (and I hope that nothing will disturb it), having Mr. Davies at Cavalla to protect, will you be good enough, Sir, to give me your instructions for the protection of Mr. Davies and the archives of the Vice-Consulate.

No. 41.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 27.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of the telegrams which I addressed to, and received from, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, relative to the murder of the French and German Consuls at this place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Telegrams addressed to and received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, relative to the Massacre of the French and German Consuls at Salonica.

(No. 1.)

Consul Blunt to Mr. Stuart.

Salonica, May 6, 1876.

Very serious disturbances by Mahomedans. Presence of British vessel-of-war necessary at Salonica for protection of our interests.

(No. 2.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 6, 1876.

Very serious disturbances here by Mahomedans owing to abduction by some Greeks of Bulgarian girl who wanted to become Mahomedan.

French and German Consuls were surrounded in a mosque and were killed, I believe, by Mahomedans who are very irritated and all armed.

Authorities have not sufficient means to act with exemplary severity, and I have telegraphed Her Majesty's Minister at Athens for British vessel-of-war for protection of our interests.

(No. 3.)

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Blunt.

Constantinople, May , 1876.

Consul Blunt's telegram No. 1 to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens asking for a man-of-war was wired through Constantinople and was communicated, it is presumed, to the Porte and Her Majesty's Embassy before his telegram of same date to Sir Henry Elliot, No. 2, had reached Constantinople. This explains why Sir Henry Elliot immediately telegraphed inquiring what had happened.

(No. 4.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 7, 1876.

Refers to previous message, No. 2, and adds:—Both the Consuls killed. The Europeans are much alarmed and struck with horror. The Greeks are arming, fearing general massacre. The Governor General of Salonica is wanting in energy. The Porte should send here an Imperial Commissioner with full powers. Mr. Abbott, German Consul, was an English subject.

(No. 5.)

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Blunt.

Constantinople, May 7, 1876.

Send me immediately the fullest details of yesterday's occurrences.

(No. 6.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

"*Salonica,*" *May* 7, 1876.

I sent full details of yesterday's occurrences by to-day's Fraissinet steamer, care of French Embassy.

A battalion of troops arrived here this afternoon. Its presence may inspire confidence, but inhabitants are very much alarmed.

(No. 7.)

Mr. Stuart to Consul Blunt.

Athens, May 7, 1876.

Your telegram received this morning. "Bittern" starts this afternoon; expects to arrive on Tuesday.

(No. 8.)

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Blunt.

Constantinople, May 7, 1876, 4.30 P.M.

Imperial Commission, accompanied by delegates of the French and German Embassies leaves this afternoon, and I have requested that you should be associated with them, Mr. Abbott being a British subject. Concert with them on their arrival if it is considered best that the funerals of the Consuls, which will be celebrated with all honours, should be deferred till the Commission can answer that it will not lead to further disturbances.

(No. 9.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 8, 1876.

Telegram received. Will follow instructions. "Bittern" due here to-morrow, two Italian ships this week, French ship "Gladiateur" to-night. Town remains quiet. Please advise Foreign Office by telegraph above state of affairs.

(No. 10.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 8, 1876, 10 P.M.

Steamer with Imperial Commissioners on board just arrived. Town apparently quiet.

(No. 11.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 9, 1876.

"Bittern" arrived this morning; French "Gladiateur" last night. Steamer with Commission only now in sight. Quiet night.

(No. 12.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 9, 1876, 2 P.M.

Investigation commenced. Salonica Pasha suspended; replaced by Esref Pasha.

Chief of Police sent under arrest on board Ottoman frigate. Funerals put off till all necessary measures are completed, to prevent their giving rise to disturbances. My suggestion that a representative of local foreign Consular corps should attend inquiry to afford information was supported by Delegates, and approved by Commissioners.

I am quite alone. May I employ services of Vice-Consul George Blunt till inquiry is completed? Please answer.

(No. 13.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 10, 1876, 8 A.M.

From want of sufficient military force and efficient officers, Imperial Commissioners propose to defer arrests till to-night, when "Salimiyeh" steamer is expected with troops on board, they hope; intimating that if we insisted upon immediate arrests disturbances might arise. Delegates and I admitted need of more troops, and told Imperial Commissioners to act when they feel ready to assume responsibility to effect arrests. Delegates request above may be communicated to French and German Ambassadors.

(No. 14.)

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Blunt.

Constantinople, May 9, 1876, 7 P.M.

You may employ Mr. George Blunt as you suggest.

(No. 15.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 10, 1876, 4 P.M.

Imperial Commissioners cannot answer that the funerals which are to be celebrated with all honours will not provoke further disturbances, being unprovided with sufficient force to preserve tranquillity and effect arrests.

Very disturbing rumours here of risings in surrounding districts. Captain of "Bittern" joins with me in thinking that the presence of two iron-clads urgently desired, and has telegraphed to Admiral. Please support application.

(No. 16.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 10, 1876, 7 P.M.

I beg to suggest that foreign Representatives at Constantinople should instruct at once Consuls here what military honours are to be given to funerals by foreign ships of war in port.

(No. 17.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 10, 1876, 8 P.M.

With reference to my last message any unnecessary foreign military display at funerals may be dangerous in present critical state of affairs, and should be avoided if possible. Am most anxious for instructions.

(No. 18.)

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Blunt.

Constantinople, May 10, 1876.

I have telegraphed to Admiral, who says that a ship of war has been sent to Salonica, and French station ships are also on their way there.

(No. 19.)

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Blunt.

Constantinople, May 10, 1876, 11·40 P.M.

I will consult my colleagues upon the subject of your telegrams, but I do not apprehend that the foreign ships of war should make any military display at the funerals.

(No. 20.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 12, 1876, 4 P.M.

Russian frigate "Svetlana," with Grand Duke on board, is expected here to-morrow. Town quiet; less alarm; no arrests yet. Funerals to-morrow, perhaps. Commissioners prudent and watchful.

(No. 21.)

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Blunt.

Constantinople, May 12, 1876, 1·20 P.M.

You must act to the best of your judgment about the funerals.

The iron-clad "Swiftsure" has been ordered to Salonica from Malta.

(No. 22.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 13, 1876, 7 P.M.

The arrest of thirty-five Mohammedans, accused of the murder of the French and German Consuls, has been effected without giving rise to disturbances.

They have been sent on board an Ottoman vessel of war.

(No. 23.)

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Salonica, May 15, 1876, 6 A.M.

Yesterday afternoon Commission held inquiry, and heard depositions, on board Ottoman flag ship. More arrests made. Alarm subsiding. Delegates and I act in harmony.

"Swiftsure" arrived yesterday.

No. 42.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 28.)

My Lord, *Athens, May* 20, 1876.

AS an interesting private letter of the 18th instant, which I received this morning from Mr. Consul Blunt of Salonica, must be of a later date than any more official Report which your Lordship can receive from him by this post through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I do myself the honour to inclose a copy of it herewith for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Stuart.

My dear Sir, *Salonica, May* 18, 1876.

ON the 16th six of the assassins were publicly hung in the presence of the Imperial Commissioners, the French and German delegates, and myself.

They, the assassins, showed, to the last, the greatest courage.

The alarm has very much subsided, but the town is occupied by strong military patrols.

There is a large naval force in port. Three French ironclads, one corvette and one gunboat, two Russian corvettes, one Austrian frigate, one German corvette, one Greek ironclad, one Ottoman ironclad and two frigates, one Italian ironclad, and one English ironclad. I am told that three German ironclads are expected.

The "Bittern" left on Tuesday for Constantinople, where much uneasiness is felt. I do not apprehend any further disturbances at Salonica; but in the interior the Mahommedans are very irritated, and I am afraid that outbreaks of a more serious nature may take place, not so much against the Christians as against the Sultan and Government. We are told that at Constantinople the Sultan was forced by a demonstration of Ulemas and Softas to dismiss the Grand Vizier, Mahmoud Pasha, and the Sheik-ul-islam; and I have been confidentially assured that the Constantinople Ulemas had sounded the Ulemas of Salonica as to their views about the Sultan, and whether they would approve his deposal.

The rising in Bulgaria may become serious in some districts, but not general, I think. So far the Bulgarians in Macedonia have given no sign of joining in the movement.

I live in a state of hurry and anxiety, so that I feel sure your Excellency will kindly excuse the form of this letter.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 43.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Stuart.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 29, 1876.

I HAVE to approve the proceedings which you took on the receipt of the telegram from Mr. Consul Blunt, reporting the late deplorable occurrences at Salonica, resulting in

the death of the French and German Consuls, as reported in your despatch of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 44.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 30.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, to your Lordship a translated copy of a telegram dated the 8th instant, which has been addressed by the Grand Vizier to the provincial authorities, stating that the recent occurrences at Salonica have overwhelmed the Sultan with sorrow; and enjoining on all those in authority, by command of His Majesty, the duty of exercising the utmost care and vigilance for the protection of the foreign Consuls and subjects.

This telegram has been published in the local Government paper "Selanik," issued the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Telegram communicated by the Grand Vizier to the General Administration at Salonica.

April 26, 1876 (*May* 8, 1876).

WE have been informed this time of the murder of the French and German Consuls by certain individuals of the Ottoman inhabitants of Salonica, who had gone to the place where these had congregated on account of a proselytized girl. Since these said persons dared to commit this greatest and inhuman crime against officers of two great Powers, and under the very eyes of the Government which, indeed, has altogether overwhelmed His Majesty with sorrow, the most strenuous measures have been at once taken concerning this affair; and in communicating just now the immediate and severe punishment of the guilty we are led, consequent upon an Imperial Iradé, to commend to you the following observations:—

As the protection of life, of honour, and of property of all inhabitants is one of the very first duties of Government, in like manner, also the maintenance of life, of honour, and of property of merchants and other inhabitants of foreign nationalities, and especially of Consuls and other officers like unto them, resident in the Ottoman Empire and protected by Treaties, is considered one of the most important duties of the Government, and the responsibility arising from a little inactivity in the performance of such duties reflects in degree from the lowest officer to the general administration themselves, in so far as the injury arising from inattention in regard to the application of these essential duties and from want of confidence in the provinces, is laid to the nation and to all the inhabitants, it is just that the officers against whom this inactivity and bad management may be proved be called to the strictest account.

In summing up these things, and keeping in view the occurrence of Salonica, our perfect will is that the utmost care may be exercised in the protection of life and property both of Mussulman and non-Mussulman inhabitants, of officers and of foreign subjects, and in the good maintenance of general quiet and order, as also the communication of these decrees to all the inhabitants and to all officers of the General Administration.

No. 45.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 30.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 17, 1876.

YESTERDAY I telegraphed as follows to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"*May* 16, 5·30 P.M.—Six of the murderers of the French and German Consuls have suffered the extreme penalty of the law in presence of the Imperial Commissioner and French and German Delegates and myself."

I now beg to report the following details on the subject.

The six prisoners convicted of the murder of my two colleagues were hanged in an open plot of ground adjoining the quay wall. The place was kept by a detachment of infantry, two deep, forming three sides of a square, the fourth facing the sea. Outside of these were posted a line of infantry and a troop of cavalry. About 5 o'clock some Jews with picks arrived, and in a short time holes were dug and the scaffolds (brought by boats) fixed up. When these were ready the executioners adjusted the ropes, and in a few minutes the culprits were landed under a strong guard from two of the boats of the Turkish flag ship, on board of which they had been tried and condemned to death.

After their chains had been taken off, and water given them to perform their ablutions, they were led pinioned into the square. They entered uncovering their arms, and tightening their waist-bands, as if preparing for a struggle.

The Imam of the flag-ship (the Chaplain) then spoke a few words to each, after which they knelt down and prayed.

The first to suffer was an Arab, who, striding up to the nearest scaffold, seized the rope, put it round his neck, and kicked away the stool, on which he had mounted, from under him.

The other five seemed almost as eager to die, each one helping the executioners in their duties.

Death was not instantaneous, the struggles of all being continued for some moments after the rope was drawn up.

Nothing could exceed the courage, the cool indifference with which they all met their fate.

The Governor-General, as Imperial Commissioner, and the French and German Delegates and myself were present during the execution. It was a horrible sight.

Boats from the French and German ships of war in port were also present, and witnessed the proceedings from a short distance off the quay. When all was over the troops dispersed, a few remaining to guard the bodies and keep back the mob, composed chiefly of Jews, and among them a few Turks.

All the arrangements were made quietly, and were carried out with the utmost order and dispatch, reflecting great credit on the Imperial Commissioners and the military authorities.

The Imperial Commissioners, the Delegates, the Foreign, Naval, and Consular Authorities were engaged the greater part of this day in making arrangements about the funerals of the two Consuls, which will be celebrated to-morrow, it is hoped. There is a disposition among some of my colleagues to make a demonstration by landing a large force of armed detachments from the several foreign vessels of war, but I and most of my colleagues, the Italian Consul in particular, have objected to anything of the sort, and we suggested that the naval commanding officers should arrange with the Ottoman authorities what military honours must be rendered to the funerals. I believe that the Ottoman authorities have no objection to the landing of guards of honour from the foreign men-of-war in port, but that they would object to the crews landing in force with their arms, as such a step would be considered by the Mahomedans as a hostile demonstration against them, and might very likely lead to further disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 46.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received May* 29.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 20, 1876.

YESTERDAY I telegraphed to your Lordship as follows:—

"*May* 19, 11 A.M.—Bodies of the Consuls buried this morning with all honours. Every thing conducted satisfactory. Town quiet."

I now beg leave to inclose herewith a copy of a report which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador on the subject of these funerals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, May 20, 1876.*

WITH reference to my telegrams of yesterday's date, relative to the funerals of the French and German Consuls, I beg leave to report the following particulars on the subject:—

Shortly before 6 o'clock yesterday morning the guards of honour, composed of 15 sailors from each of the French, German, Russian, Austrian, Italian, and Greek ships of war, and of 15 Marines from Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," landed on the Salonica Quay, and were soon followed by the Russian and French Admirals, and commanding officers of the several foreign ships of war in port. The Governor-General, with the Imperial Commissioner, Vahan Effendi, the Consular Corps, and the French and German Delegates also arrived, when all proceeded in a body to the Roman Catholic Church followed by a large concourse of the friends of the deceased.

I inclose a copy of the programme of the funerals which was prepared by the French Admiral in concert with the two Delegates and the Imperial Commissioners, while the guards of honour took up a position on each side of the street opposite to the Roman Catholic Church in which the remains of the French Consul were lying; the French and German sailors formed a guard of honour in the church during the service; the entrance being lined by the English Marines and the Russian sailors. The church, which was decorated, was crowded during the service, at the conclusion of which the procession was formed in the following manner:—

A guard of Turkish soldiers, the Governor-General Eshref Pasha, the Imperial Commissioner Vahan Effendi, Ottoman Vice-Admiral Mehmet Pasha, and Major-General Ibrahim Pasha.

The Acolyth carrying the Cross.

The Roman Catholic clergy.

The Greek Metropolitan with the Archdeacon here joined the procession.

The coffin, on which was placed the deceased Consuls' uniform, hat, and sword, and decorations, borne by French sailors, and escorted on either side by French and German sailors.

Members of the Consuls' family. The French Admiral came next with the captain of the German corvette; the French and German Delegates; the foreign Consular Corps at Salonica; the Russian Admiral with the commanding officers of the foreign ships of war, and a guard of honour of 15 seamen. The Consular cavasses; the foreign residents; a guard of Turkish soldiers.

The route taken by the procession was past the Imperial Ottoman Bank, along the main thoroughfare and down by the new street to the quay. On reaching the landing place the body was met by the French Naval Chaplains and a guard of honour, and was put on board the steam-launch of the French flag ship.

As the body left the shore salutes were fired by the ships. The proceedings occupied about two hours.

The procession next proceeded to the Greek Church of St. Nicola, to which place the remains of the late German Consul, Mr. Abbott, had been brought from his residence.

The coffin was placed in the centre of the Church, the German and French sailors forming a guard of honour in the nave. The English marines and Russian guards of honour being drawn up in two lines at the entrance.

The burial service was performed by the Greek Archbishop, assisted by all the clergy of the town parishes, and lasted about half-an-hour; after which the procession was re-formed and proceeded along the main street through the centre of the Greek quarter to the cathedral of the cemetery in which the burial took place.

The coffin was lowered into the grave in the presence of a large assemblage, the troops presenting arms and the ships firing salutes. The ceremony over, the Imperial Commissioner and Governor-General, with the foreign Consular corps, accompanied the Admirals and naval officers to the quay, where the procession broke up.

Every mark of respect was shown to both funerals by the Ottoman authorities, and much sympathy and compassionate interest felt by all who witnessed the ceremonies. The shops and places of business were closed and the day was observed as one of general mourning.

During the ceremonies, which lasted more than four hours, there was no attempt whatever at disturbance. Everything passed off quietly and all the arrangements were carried out without the slightest hitch.

All the streets abutting the main thoroughfare were closed by Turkish troops, and no one allowed to pass.

Every one admired the energy and good will with which the Governor-General and the Imperial Commissioner exerted themselves to keep order throughout the town and to render every possible honour to the funerals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Funérailles du Consul de France.

Avant-garde des soldats Turcs.

Le Valy. Le Commissaire Ottoman, Vahun Effendi. L'Amiral Turc.

Le Clergé.

1 Lieutenant, Allemand. Doyen du Corps Consulaire. Gerant du Consulat de France.* 1 Enseigne de vaisseau.

Le Corps.

24 matelots Allemands. 24 matelots Français.

Officier Allemand. Officier Français.

La famille.

Le Commandeur Allemand. L'Amiral Français.

Le Commissaire Allemand. Le Commissaire Français.

Le Corps Consulaire.

L'Amiral Russe.

1 Sous-officier Allemand. Les Commandants des bâtiments de guerre présent sur rade. 1 Sous-officier Français.

Les Commandants et les Etats-Majors des bâtiments Français et Allemand.

Les Etats-Majors des bâtiments de guerre présent sur rade.

Les 16 matelots Allemands.

Les Cavass Consulaires.

Les notables Européens invités.

Arrière-garde des soldats Turcs.

Gardes d'honneurs composées de 15 marins de chaque bâtiment de guerre en rade. Gardes d'honneurs composées de 15 matelots de chaque bâtiment de guerre en rade.

* Aux funérailles de Mr. Abbott, Consul d'Allemagne, ce poste était réservé à M. le Consul d'Angleterre, Mr. Abbott étant sujet Anglais.

No. 47.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 29.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May 20, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract of a letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, dated Larissa, 17th May, containing some information on the state of public feeling in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT

Inclosure in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Suter to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Larissa, May* 17, 1876.

THE sad event continues to be the all absorbing subject of general attention, and while that is directed to learning what will be done to avenge the foul deed, and what consequences or influence it may have upon the present state of Eastern affairs, it cannot be wondered at that a feeling of uneasiness here, if not alarm, should be prevalent. I am constantly asked for news, as are also my colleagues, and therefore, as begged in my last, I hope you will afford me some information as to what is doing, together with any advice or instructions you may deem desirable. With us now all is quiet; the authorities seem to be taking every needful precaution; and I, at least, can at present see no reason to be apprehensive of any disturbance of public tranquillity. It must not be forgotten, however, that there is no lack at Larissa of the fanatic, ill-disposed, and disorderly element among the Mahomedan population; and that in an excited state of things, an accident—a mere spark—may lead to explosion.

Under this impression, Christians in Thessaly feel, as circumstances are, that the presence of any foreign ships of war in the port of Volo would be a great boon; and no one can doubt, could any be sent thither, they might prevent the chance of anything sinister occurring in this province.

No. 48.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received May 30.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 16, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that there are now in this port two Turkish frigates and one iron-clad, under the orders of a Vice-Admiral; three French iron-clads, one corvette, and one gun-boat, under the orders of a Rear-Admiral; two Russian corvettes, under the orders of a Rear-Admiral (one of the corvettes is commanded by His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis); one Greek iron-clad; one German corvette; one Austro-Hungarian frigate; and one English iron-clad—the "Swiftsure."

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No 49.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 2.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 24, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the letter which I have received from Mr. Consul Blunt, giving further details of the occurrences at Salonica, and mentioning the risk that he himself incurred in his attempt to save his colleagues.

I also inclose the copy of a letter from Commander Anstruther, of Her Majesty's ship "Bittern."

I trust that your Lordship will concur in the approval that I have addressed to Mr. Blunt for the courage and tact he has displayed in very difficult circumstances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Captain Anstruther to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *"Bittern," Salonica, May* 11, 1876.

I HAVE just been informed, through the courtesy of Captain Sachtouris, of the Greek iron-clad "King George," that their gun-vessel "Salaminia" is sailing at once for Constantinople.

Mr. Blunt, who has just left me to pay official visits to the Turkish and Russian

Admirals, has begged me to express his regret to your Excellency that these duties will so occupy the two remaining hours that he will be unable to inform you himself of the position of matters; he has, therefore, as we are acting together very cordially, requested me to write to you on the subject.

Your Excellency has been informed by telegram of all events of importance, and is aware of the excited and uneasy state prevailing among all classes on shore, but I regret to report that this disturbed feeling, which at first was confined chiefly to the town, appears to be generally spreading into the adjacent country and villages. Foreign ships of war are assembling rapidly, seven iron-clads, frigates or corvettes, being at present at anchor here, and we expect almost hourly the appearance of the French, two Italian, two Turks, one Austrian, and, I hope, two English vessels, all large frigates or iron-clads. The only danger of further disturbances taking place will be when the interment of the unfortunate victims of the late outbreak takes place.

My movements will, of course, be guided by the instructions received by our Consul from your Excellency.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Salonica, May* 14, 1876.

THE general alarm is subsiding, and I do hope that everything will go off as yesterday's operations, which were conducted with firmness and determination. Vahan Effendi, M. Gillet, M. Robert, M. Foscarini, and I, had possession of the konak; and Eshref Pasha directed the military movements in person, being on horseback the whole of the afternoon. The members of the Medjlis were kept under supervision in the konak, and the whole business was managed admirably, and so far to the satisfaction of the two delegates.

With reference to the United States' Vice-Consul, M. Pericles Lazzaro, I beg to assure your Excellency that I do not at all believe that he had any, the least, part in the abduction of the girl. He was not here when the girl arrived at Salonica by the train on the 5th, and returned from an excursion to Vodina on the evening of the 6th instant, having been absent from Salonica about a week with M. Vatikioti, the Greek Consul-General, and M. Mavrocordato, a member of the Greek Parliament. If his carriage went to the railway station on the evening of the 5th, it does not appear that it was for the prearranged (as it is supposed) purpose of assisting in the abduction of the girl, but to meet M. Lazzaro and party, who also were expected that evening. The Greeks stopped the carriage, and forced the coachman to take up the girl and conduct her to the Consulate; nor was the Consul's brother, M. Nicola Lazzaro, a Russian subject, at home when the girl was brought to the house, which was about half-an-hour after sunset; she remained the night in the house, and was sent the next morning to whose house we do not yet know for certain; so far the Consul's brother was not to blame; and had he not refused to reveal where the girl had gone, or been sent, the disturbance may not have taken place, at least there would have been no bloodshed; but, as I said before, I sincerely believe that my United States colleague is not responsible, and I should deem it a great favour if your Excellency would kindly submit my testimony to his Excellency the United States' Minister.

The girl, as far as I hear, is a worthless creature. I was at the konak when my cavass brought her (it was about half an hour after the murders) and I saw her. She appeared to me about eighteen years of age, if not more. I should add, that if my cavass had not succeeded in making the infuriated crowd believe in the identity of the girl, the American Consulate would have been attacked, and more lives would have been sacrificed. The cavass acted bravely and faithfully, and I shall, on a later occasion, solicit your Excellency's favourable consideration of his conduct, and of that of the French cavass Yashas, who stood by me, and with some ten or twelve Mahommedans surrounded me and escorted me to the konak. I claim your Excellency's indulgence for the form of this letter.

I forgot to mention that my cavass Hussein, while making his way through the crowd, was fired at.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Blunt.

(Extract.) *Constantinople, May* 19, 1876.

I HAVE had much satisfaction in receiving your telegrams, stating that the funerals of the Consuls, and the execution of six of their murderers, had taken place without disturbance of the public tranquillity, and it affords me particular pleasure to convey to you my appreciation of the courage and judgment you have exhibited under circumstances of great difficulty, and my congratulations on your escape from the dangers to which you exposed yourself.

I shall hope to receive from you all the details of the facts which may have been elicited by the inquiry into the lamentable occurrence, and I have especially to request you to report any grounds that exist for supposing the outbreak that occurred to have been the result of any preconcerted attack by the Mussulmans upon the Christians.

The statements respecting the woman who was the immediate cause of the catastrophe, as regards her age, her own wishes, and previous relations with the Mussulmans, are all so contradictory that I should be glad to be correctly informed respecting them.

No. 50.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Elliot, with copies of its inclosures relative to a representation which I addressed to the Imperial Commissioners, urging an immediate enquiry into the conduct of the ex-Governor-General, and those in authority under him, during the recent occurrences at this place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 21, 1876.

AS much discontent is generally felt and expressed by the public in consequence of the ex-Governor-General and some members of the Local Administration, whose conduct during the recent occurrences has given rise to grave suspicions against them, not having been examined and dealt with at the same time as the six culprits who were tried and executed on the 16th instant, I addressed a Memorandum on the subject to the Imperial Commissioners, as per copy herewith inclosed.

In reading this Memorandum to the Commissioners, I told them that I thought it was very important that the ex-Governor-General and those in authority under him should be examined as soon as possible, and their evidence subjected to the most searching scrutiny, and I also added that in the interest of the Ottoman Government, and of the suspected parties, it was equally necessary and important that this matter should receive the immediate attention of the Commission.

Their Excellencies assured me that it was their firm determination to make a complete and impartial investigation without regard to the position or rank of the suspected parties, and to visit them with severe punishment if found guilty of having instigated the recent occurrences.

On the 18th instant, the day after I delivered my Memorandum, a notification was published in the "Official Gazette of Salonica," in Greek and in Turkish, informing the public of the conviction and execution of six of the assassins, and declaring that the Commission will also punish those who have provoked the sad event.

I inclose the "Gazette," with an English translation of the notification.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Memorandum.

A la Commission Impériale d'Enquête.

LA Commission hier a pu à un certain degré satisfaire à l'impatience fiévreuse du publique par le jugement et exécution d'une partie des personnes qui ont été prouvées d'être les acteurs directs de l'affreuse crime commis sur les personnes du Consul de France et du Consul d'Allemagne. Cependant l'opinion publique, bien rassuré d'avance sur ce point, le considère aujourd'hui comme secondaire vis-à-vis du point important qui se rapporte aux instigateurs de l'armement de la population Mahomédane, et de l'odieux crime, qui ne peuvent qu'appartenir à une classe plus élevée de celle dont la Commission Impériale s'en est occupée jusqu'ici.

Quelques personnages sont accusés par l'opinion publique d'avoir excité et instigué la populace. Ils ne se trouvent encore que sous la surveillance de la Commission.

Dans mon humble opinion il sera juste de procéder un moment plustôt à leur jugement et, s'ils seront reconnus coupables, à leur punition.

A bord du vaisseau Amiral Ottoman "Selimieh," Mai 17, 1876.

(Translation.)

To the Imperial Commission of Enquiry.

THE Commission yesterday was able, to a certain extent, to satisfy the feverish impatience of the public, by the trial and execution of some of the persons who have been proved the actual perpetrators of the terrible crime committed against the French and German Consuls. Public opinion, however well informed beforehand on this point, considers it to-day as secondary in view of the important question relating to the instigators of the arming of the Mahommedan populace, and of the odious crime, which can only be attributed to a higher class of persons than that with respect to which the Imperial Commission has hitherto dealt.

Some personages are accused by public opinion of having excited and instigated the populace. Up to this moment they are only under the surveillance of the Commission. In my humble opinion it will be right to proceed forthwith to their trial, and if they be found guilty, to their punishment.

On board the ship of the Ottoman Admiral "Selimieh," May 17, 1876.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

Notification published in the "Official Gazette" of Salonica, on the 18th May, 1876.

UNDER the all powerful care of our Sultan, and in consequence of the severe measures taken by the Imperial Government for the known sad event, all those supposed to have been the culprits were seized and put under arrest, without causing the least disturbances in the place.

After a searching investigation, supported by authentic witnesses, six persons among the arrested were shown as the real culprits of the crime, and, according to the law of the Empire, were condemned to death and executed on Tuesday.

The Imperial Government, following the same line of justice, will, without further delay and according to the guilt of each culprit, continue to punish all those that have provoked this sad event, as it has not hesitated to punish in an exemplary manner the first authors of this crime.

The feelings of justice which our peaceful Sultan has shown and which have impressed all, rightly deserve the blessings of his faithful subjects. The people, thankful to the Sultan for his sincere and impartial administration of justice towards all, and for the peace and quiet of the place which they enjoy, will consider it as their duty to raise daily beseeching prayers to the Almighty for the long life and prosperity of His Imperial Majesty.

No. 51.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 6.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May 22, 1876.*

I BEG leave to submit inclosed herewith to your Lordship, a copy of a letter from the Greek Metropolitan of Salonica to the French and German Consulates, relative to the recent occurrences at this place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 51.

The Greek Metropolitan of Salonica to M. Krajonsky.

M. le Consul, *Salonique, le $\frac{8}{20}$ Mai, 1876.*

DEPUIS le jour où un double crime des plus tragiques et des plus horribles a été perpétré et a plongé tous les habitants de cette ville, sous les yeux desquels ces atrocités ont été commises, dans une profonde douleur, il me parviennent, à ma très-grande affliction, tous les jours de bruits : que la noble Colonie Européenne impute les causes de cet affreux drame, en grande partie, à la communauté Grecque.

Je suis à même, M. le Consul, de vous assurer, en m'appuyant sur les preuves les plus concluantes que quant à la misérable fille qui a été la cause de tous les épisodes tragiques, personne ici n'avait la moindre connaissance de son arrivée ; seulement, les lamentations de sa mère, au moment de l'arrivée du train, ont excité la compassion de quelques personnes qui se trouvaient par hasard à la station. Quant au reste, personne ne se serait jamais imaginé, et il était impossible pour qui que ce fût, de concevoir l'idée qu'une misérable fille pût jamais fournir un prétexte de pousser les choses jusqu'au point ou elles sont arrivées : à compromettre toute une ville populeuse, à paralyser toutes les transactions, à mettre en danger la vie et l'avoir de ses habitants.

Je puis vous assurer, M. le Consul, que le double crime commis, unique exemple d'atrocité, car il n'en existe pas de pareil dans les annales, soit quant à sa conception, soit quant à son exécution barbare, toute la communauté Chrétienne a été si profondément émue que des siècles ne pourront effacer le souvenir des deux martyrs, distingués d'abord par leurs vertus, et par la position élevée et honorable qu'ils occupaient en leur qualité de représentants de deux grandes et glorieuses Puissances auxquelles nous sommes redevables et auxquelles nous sommes attaché par les liens d'une profonde reconnaissance.

Voilà les motifs qui me convient à vous prier, M. le Consul, pour le cas que, soit une malveillance, assurément non-fondée, soit l'ignorance des faits, se plairaient à répandre des bruits contraires à ce qui existe, de vouloir bien porter à la connaissance de tous : que la communauté Grecque-Chrétienne n'éprouve et n'a jamais éprouvé d'autres sentiments que ceux d'une sympathie vraie et d'une douleur profonde.

Agréez, &c.
Le Métropolitain de Salonique.
(Signé) JOACHIM.

(Translation.)

M. le Consul, *Salonica, May $\frac{8}{20}$, 1876.*

SINCE the day on which a double crime of a most tragic and horrible character has been perpetrated, and has plunged all the inhabitants of this town, under whose eyes these atrocities have been committed, into profound grief, every day to my great affliction rumours reach me, that the noble European Colony imputes the causes of this terrible drama in a great measure to the Greek community.

I am in a position, M. de Consul, to assure you, supported as I am by the most conclusive proofs, that as regards the miserable girl who was the cause of all these tragic episodes, nobody had the least idea of her arrival ; the lamentations of her mother, at the moment of the arrival of the train, excited the compassion of some people who were accidentally at the station. For the rest, nobody would have ever imagined, and it was impossible for anybody to conceive, that a miserable girl could ever have furnished a pretext to hurry events to the point at which they have arrived, to have compromised a whole populous town, to paralyze all business, and endanger the life and property of its inhabitants. I can assure you, M. le Consul, that the double crime committed, unique in

its atrocity, for no parallel is found in history, whether in its conception or its barbarous execution, all the Christian community has been so profoundly moved that centuries will not be able to efface the recollection of the two martyrs, distinguished in the first instance by their virtues, and still more by the lofty and honourable position which they occupied as Representatives of two great and glorious Powers to whom we are under obligations, and to whom we are attached by ties of profound gratitude.

These are the motives which urge me to beg you, M. le Consul, in the event that, whether by malice assuredly unfounded, or ignorance of the facts, people should spread abroad reports about these circumstances, to be good enough to make known to everybody that the Greek-Christian Church feels and has never felt anything but sentiments of true sympathy and profound grief.

Receive, &c.
The Metropolitan of Salonica,
(Signed) JOACHIM.

No. 52.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 5.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 23, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch and its three inclosures which I addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople furnishing some particulars in regard to the age, previous relations, wishes, and the seizure by the Greeks of the Bulgarian girl who was the immediate cause of the recent disturbances at this place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 22, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translated copies of two letters from a reliable quarter furnishing some information about the Bulgarian girl who was the origin of the recent occurrences at this place.

I also inclose a copy of an account of how the seizure of the girl was effected by the Greeks. It has been furnished to me by an English gentleman, who was an eye witness or the occurrence, and who will give his name if necessary.

As to the age of the girl she seemed to me—when I saw her at the konak about twenty minutes after the murder—to be between 17 and 18 years old.

If I can procure further particulars I shall not fail to forward them to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Extract of a Letter relative to the conversion to Mahomedanism of the Bulgarian girl who was the cause of recent occurrences at Salonica.

(Translation.) *Le* $\frac{5}{17}$ *Mai*, 1876, *le soir.*

CETTE fille dévergondée est originaire du village de Bogdantza du Kaza Avrethissar. La mère de la jeune fille, qui est veuve depuis 8 à 10 ans, est citée par le prêtre du village d'être d'une mauvaise conduite.

Le nom de son mari était Dellio-Kiota. Quant à ceux de la mère et de la jeune fille je m'informerai ce soir.

Le jeune homme avec lequel elle avait des relations était le gardien de Mehmet Agha.

Cette jeune fille, agée de 15-16 ans, en arrivant à Salonique, était accompagnée du Hodja du village et d'une négresse. On dit même qu'avant d'être enlevée de la

fontaine elle avait secrètement transférée ses vêtements dans la maison du Musulman. Mercredi soir l'ayant prise ils allèrent à Maya-Dag, où ils passèrent la nuit.

Le lendemain ils se rendirent à Kara-souli, où ils restèrent dans la maison de Kara-Ibrahim, et Vendredi ils partirent pour Salonique.

C'est tout ce que je connais, mais je m'informerai de deux côtés différents pour avoir des détails et des plus amples renseignements sur ce sujet.

(Translation.)

May $\frac{5}{17}$, 1876, P.M.

THIS shameless girl is from the village of Bogdantza of Raza-Avrethissar.

The mother of the girl, a widow since 8 or 10 years, is alleged by the priest of the village to be a woman of bad character.

Her husband's name was Dellio-Kiota. I will find out those of the mother and the girl this evening.

The young man with whom she had an intrigue, was keeper to Mehemet Agha.

This girl, from 15 to 16 years old, on arriving at Salonica was accompanied by the Hodja of the village and a negress.

It is said even that before being carried off from the fountain, she had secretly moved her clothes into the Mussulman's house. On Wednesday morning having taken her, they went to Maya-Day, where they passed the night.

The next day they went to Kara Souli, where they stayed in the house of Kara-Ibrahim, and Friday they left for Salonica.

This is all that I know, but I will inquire in two different directions for the details and the most ample information on this subject.

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

Extract of a Letter furnishing further particulars relative to Bulgarian girl who embraced Mahomedanism.

(Translation.) *Le* $\frac{5}{17}$ *Mai*, 1876, *à* 3 *heures de la nuit.*

ON connaissait il y a six mois dans le village de Bogdanitza que Stefanini, fille du défunt Dellio Kiota, et de marie, agée de 15 à 16 ans, avait des relations avec le fils du garde champêtre Omer Zintsoglou, Mustapha.

Plusieurs voisins de cette malhonnête femme lui avaient fait observer la conduite de sa fille; quelques Musulmans aussi en firent autant. La jeune fille ayant pris depuis quelques jours ses vêtements et quelques-unes de sa mère les envoya chez son amant.

Le Mercredi vers 10 heures de l'après-midi sous prétexte qu'elle irait à la fontaine, elle se fit enlever par quelques Ottomans, qui la transportèrent à la maison d'Omer Zintsoglou, père de Mustafa. Mais à cette heure ni l'un ni l'autre ne se trouvaient là, c'est pourquoi l'épouse du premier n'accepta pas la fille et lui dit: "Qu'elle se fasse Musulmane d'abord et de venir après chez moi." On conduisit alors la fille à la maison d'Ahmet Soubashi, Muktar, frère d'Omer Zintsoglou. Le Jeudi on l'amena à Gevgheli dans la maison de leur gendre Ahmet Agha, et le Vendredi, afin qu'elle ne fût pas reconnu, on la fit prendre de Karasouli le chemin de fer, où elle fut rencontré par sa mère. Elle était accompagnée par le Hodja du village, d'une négresse et de Mehmet Agha de Ghevgheli.

Ces renseignements je les ai receuillis d'un homme bien digne de foi.

(Translation.)

May $\frac{5}{17}$, 1876, 3 A.M.

IT was known six months ago in the village of Bogdantza that Stefani, of the age of 15 or 16 years, the daughter of the deceased Kiota and of Marie, had an intrigue with the son of the gamekeeper Omer Zintsoglou Mustapha.

Several neighbours of this improper woman called her attention to her daughter's conduct, as did some Mussulmans. The girl having some days since taken her clothes and some belonging to her mother, sent them to her lover's house.

On Wednesday, about 10 P.M., under pretext of going to the fountain, she arranged to be carried off by some Mussulmans, who took her to the house of Omer Zintsoglou, the father of Mustapha.

But at that hour neither one nor the other was there, the wife, therefore, of the

former, would not receive the girl, saying, "Let her become Mohammedan first, and then let her come to me." They then took the girl to the house of Ahmet Soubashi Muktar, the brother of Omer Zintsoglou.

On Thursday they took her to Gevgheli, to the house of their son-in-law, Ahmet Agha, and on Friday, so that she should not be recognized, they made her take train from Karasouli, where she was met by her mother. She was accompanied by the Hodja of the village, by a negress, and by Mehemet Agha from Ghevgheli.

I have received this information from a very trustworthy man.

Inclosure 4 in No. 52.

Extract of a Letter relative to the Seizure by the Greeks of the Bulgarian girl who embraced Mahomedanism.

(Translation.)

THIS is, as nearly as possible, what took place at the railway station:—

A few minutes after the arrival of the train on Friday the 5th instant, and as the travellers were getting out of the station, I remarked a great crowd. I approached it with the object of finding out what was the matter. On getting near the station, I saw a scuffle between some Greeks, I believe Bulgarians, and some zaptiehs. Just as I came up, the crowd began to disperse, and was following four zaptiehs, two of them holding a girl, who appeared to me to be pleased to go with them. She was unveiled, and had her hair falling behind.

Foremost amongst those who had been fighting outside the station was a young man Abbott, who, as I found out, came down in the same train, but not on duty. Next to him was another Greek, also in the employ of the railway, named Dessilé (Kéhaya). When the zaptiehs were in the act of walking towards the town with the girl, these two Greeks walked in such a manner as to impede their way, and prevent the zaptiehs going any further. However, the latter seemed to hold fast, and were, although surrounded, marching in the direction of the town. They had not gone 500 yards, when the Greeks (whose number was increasing every minute) stopped the zaptiehs, and here a second, and, from all accounts, a severe fight took place. I hurried to the spot, taking with me the only zaptieh left at the station. I ordered him to run and assist his comrades. We both came too late; the girl had been violently snatched from the hands of the zaptiehs, and placed in the carriage of the American Consul. This carriage was at the station; it passed me when I was running to the scene; the horses were galloping. There was a woman (rather common) in the carriage. As soon as they put the girl in the carriage, the coachman whipped his horses, and drove off as fast as possible towards the town, the zaptiehs following and shouting out to stop him.

I remarked Messrs. Gsiller, Eichler, and Rochette on horseback. It struck me that Mr. Rochette got into the middle of the crowd, trying, I suppose, to separate the combatants.

No. 53.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 6, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's despatch to Mr. Consul Blunt, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch of the 24th ultimo, and in which your Excellency expressed your appreciation of the tact and courage displayed by him in the recent occurrences at Salonica.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 54.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 9.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May 30, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting further information

respecting the age of the Bulgarian girl who was the primary cause of the recent occurrences at this place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 30, 1876.

YESTERDAY the Bulgarian girl was examined by the Commissioners in the presence of the Delegates.

One fact has been established in the opinion of all who attended the inquiry, that is, that she must be 16, if not 17, years old. The Imperial Commissioner, Vahan Effendi, gives her 19, while she herself states her age at 15.

She also repeatedly declared that no one forced her to embrace Mahomedanism; that during the time she was concealed by the Greeks, efforts were made to dissuade her from renouncing the Christian religion; and that she was determined to follow the Mahomedan faith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 55.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, June* 10, 1876.

THE German Ambassador has informed me that his Government have received reports from the German Ambassador at Constantinople which give reason to believe that the Porte is not showing a disposition to punish the real authors of the murder of the Consuls at Salonica; that the persons executed and imprisoned have been of a low class, and that the authorities are conniving at the escape of those persons of higher rank who were the instigators of the outrage, and are pursuing, in fact, the same course as the German Government believe to have been adopted after the massacre of the Christians at Damascus in 1860.

Under these circumstances the German Ambassador was instructed to ask Her Majesty's Government to direct Sir H. Elliot to assist his colleagues in endeavouring to bring to justice the real culprits.

I acquainted his Excellency with the substance of a telegram received from Sir H. Elliot, and stated that it appeared from the information received from Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople that Sir H. Elliot had already assured his German and French colleagues that he would support them to the utmost in insisting on the punishment of any participator in the murders, whatever his position might be, although he could not, of course, demand that an example should be made of any one whose guilt was not established.

I added that Her Majesty's Government would, however, let Sir H. Elliot know that the German Government had called attention to the matter and instruct him to continue to act with his German and French colleagues in bringing to justice any persons who can be proved to have taken part in the murders or actually instigated them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 56.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 11.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 31, 1876.

YESTERDAY I despatched to your Lordship a telegram thus worded:—

"*May* 30, 11 A.M.

"Deposition of Sultan Aziz, and accession of Sultan Murad, have been publicly

proclaimed by the Ottoman authorities here. The inhabitants in general, the Mahomedans in particular, have received the news with great enthusiasm.

"The public joy is indescribable, and continues to manifest itself in all freedom from restraint; the streets last night were densely crowded with people, high and low, watching the illuminations and fireworks."

The public criers proclaimed the new Sovereign, in every quarter of the town, charging the inhabitants to pay allegiance to him. The town fortress fired salutes, and the Ottoman and foreign ships of war in port were dressed, and fired royal salutes; the garrison troops were paraded, and cheered and acclaimed Sultan Murad, and deputations from the different communities waited on the Governor-General, and the Greek Metropolitan, who is much respected, and deservedly so, by the Mahomedans of this town, was among the foremost to offer his congratulations to the authorities, and to profess his loyalty and allegiance for the new Sultan, and it was remarked that he and the Defterdar, one of the chief members of the local administration, embraced each other and shed tears of joy.

The Mufti, the chief spiritual authority of the Mahomedan community, and an aged man, wept like a child.

I was at the konak* when the official news arrived, and witnessed the effect it produced on the members of the administration: an intense feeling of satisfaction mingled with joy and pride was expressed by every one, from the Governor-General to the Kiatib; many of them surrounded me and remarked, "We are proud, Sir, that this revolution is being accomplished quietly and without bloodshed," and the words "Parlamento" and "Costituzion" were in every one's mouth, and all were anxious to have full details of the event, and the names of the leading men in the movement.

The "Selanik," local Government Gazette, published bulletins in letters of gold, as also the other papers, of which I inclose two copies.

About noon the foreign Consuls received an official communication from the Governor-General, announcing the deposition of Sultan Aziz and Prince Murad's accession, and that the town and public buildings would be illuminated in honour of the event.

I inclose a translated copy of the Governor's letter to me on the subject.

The Ottoman Vice-Admiral called on the Admirals and Commanding Officers of the foreign ships of war and notified the event. Later in the day the foreign Consuls, in answer to a special invitation from the Pasha, waited on his Excellency in full dress and offered their congratulations. (I was accompanied by Captain Baird, of Her Majesty's ironclad "Swiftsure.") We were received in state, a battalion of troops presenting arms and military bands playing national airs. Shortly after, the French and Russian Admirals and foreign naval Commanding Officers also paid official visits to the Ottoman Admiral.

All the public buildings, the foreign Consulates, and the Ottoman and foreign ships of war were illuminated last night. The bazaars, the houses, the windows of the poorest, were lighted. After the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which was artistically illuminated, the British and Italian Consulates made the best display.

I should also report to your Lordship that the manifestations of public joy have not been interrupted or disfigured by any act of disorder or ill-feeling. The quay, the principal streets, the bazaars, and the coffee-houses were crowded with Turks, Greeks, Jews, Levantines and Europeans, all mingled together, men, women, and children, as if their national and religious feelings had not been wounded and irritated by the recent horrid occurrences; antipathy of race to race appeared to have been forgotten and forgiven.

I should also add that many leading Turks have expressed to me in very feeling terms the hope that the English Government and nation will fully appreciate the quiet and deliberate manner with which Sultan Aziz has been deposed and Prince Murad proclaimed in his stead, and will stand by their new Sovereign, and assist and protect him from the external dangers which may menace his Empire.

I trust, my Lord, your Lordship will pardon the hurried form and imperfections of this Report, which I have been trying to prepare in time to go by to-day's mail, viâ Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

I regret I have had no time to prepare translations of the Turkish and Greek bulletins.

J. E. B.

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* Governor's house.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Translation of a Bulletin of the "Gazette" of Salonica.

Telegram from the Grand Vizirat, dated May $\frac{18}{30}$, 1876.

Great and Cheerful Proclamation.

"BY the will of God and by general consent, the Sultan Abdul-Aziz Han having been deposed, the accession of His Majesty the Sultan Murat V, the legal heir of the Kingdom and to the illustrious Throne of the Osmanlis, has been proclaimed to-day. May the Almighty strengthen His Imperial Majesty for the common prosperity of all.

"The present to be immediately made public."

The above Imperial change being one of the greatest favours of Divine Providence to all the inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire, and altogether in accordance with the general feeling (of the people), reached here as a messenger of new life and safety for all the State; and, in proclaiming the same to the public, we cordially congratulate His Majesty and express our eternal thanks.

That the Almighty may conduct always to good end all the actions of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan Murad V, the newly-elected Emperor of all the inhabitants of the State.

His Excellency our Governor-General, as soon as he received the above cheerful news, proclaimed it personally and in the most official manner to the regiment of troops now quartered in the Government Palace, and the proclamation was unanimously accepted in perfect order by the troops, who presented arms as a mark of respect, and acclaimed with cheers the new Monarch.

The great news was also immediately communicated to the public by special criers, and also to all the subordinate authorities of the province; to all the Consulates, and to the Commanders of the national and foreign men-of-war in the port, which all, together with the fortress, several times fired salutes in honour of the event.

As a consequence of this great event, immense joy has been observed among all the inhabitants, and public illuminations will take place for three days and nights, as appears from the preparations which are being made in the town. That the Kingdom of His Imperial Majesty the newly elected Emperor, Sultan Murad V, the friend of the people, be invincible, and strengthened by the Almighty for the common good and glory of all the State, and of all the subjects intrusted to the Imperial Sceptre by the Divine Providence, to whatever nationality they may belong. Amen.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

The Governor-General of Salonica to Consul Blunt.

(Translation.) *May* 30, 1876.

PAR le télégramme Viziriel en date d'aujourd'hui il m'est communiqué que Sultan Abdul-Aziz vient d'être détroné par la volonté nationale et que l'héritier présomptif, le Prince Mourad, a été proclamé Sultan.

La nouvelle de cet heureux événement a été accueillie par toutes les populations de l'Empire, tant Musulmanes que Chrétiennes, avec une joie indescriptible.

Vu l'heureux accord et la solide amitié existant entre l'Angleterre et la Turquie je vous invite, M. le Consul, vous ainsi que votre colonie, à vous associer à la réjouissance publique causée par cet heureux événement.

Veuillez croire, M. le Consul, que mes efforts tendront à maintenir les rapports amicaux existant entre le Consulat Britannique et les autorités locales.

(L.S.) (Signé) ESHREF.

(Translation.)

May 30, 1876.

BY the telegram from the Vizier of to-day's date, I have been informed that the Sultan Abdul Aziz had just been dethroned by the wish of the nation, and that the heir presumptive, Prince Mourad, had been proclaimed Sultan.

The news of this happy event was received by all the populations of the Empire, whether Mussulmans or Christians, with indescribable joy.

In view of the happy agreement and the solid friendship existing between England and Turkey, I invite you, M. le Consul, as well as your Colony, to join in the public joy caused by this happy event.

Believe, M. le Consul, that my efforts will tend to maintain the friendly relations existing between the British Consulate and the local authorities.

(Signed) ESHREF.

No. 57.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 3, 1876.*

I RECEIVED last night the inclosed telegraphic message from Raschid Pasha, saying that the Porte proposed to send to Salonica some officers to constitute a court-martial to try, along with the two Imperial Commissioners, and in the presence of the Delegates of the British, French, and German Embassies, the late Governor of Salonica, who is a military man, and two Colonels, whose conduct is impugned.

I called this morning on Count Bourgoing, and found that he agreed in considering that no possible objection could be made to the proposal, but I received afterwards the inclosed telegram from Mr. Blunt, stating that the other Delegates had protested against the arrangement.

I inclose the copy of my reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Raschid Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

(Télégraphique.) *2 Juin, 1876.*

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que la Sublime Porte, désireuse de donner entière satisfaction à la justice en évitant en même temps toute illéga ité dans le jugement des trois officiers supérieurs prévenus d'avoir manqué à leurs devoirs lors de l'incident de Salonique, vient en conformité des dispositions du Code Militaire de désigner un Conseil de Guerre qui devra se joindre aux deux Commissaires Impériaux pour juger en présence des délégués des trois Ambassades l'ex-Gouverneur en sa qualité de militaire, le Colonel des Redifs et celui de la Gendarmerie, les membres du Conseil de Guerre devant partir ce soir ou demain matin par un bateau de l'Etat pour Salonique. Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien télégraphier à qui de droit des instructions en conséquence. Les Commissaires Impériaux ont reçu déjà des ordres télégraphiques dans le même sens.

(Translation.)

June 2, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Sublime Porte, anxious to give complete satisfaction to justice, and to avoid at the same time all illegality in the trial of the three superior officers accused of having failed in their duty with respect to the Salonica incident, has just, in conformity with the dispositions of the Military Code, nominated a Council of War to act with the two Imperial Commissioners to try before the Delegates of the three Embassies the ex-Governor in his capacity as a military man, the Colonel of Redifs and the Colonel of Gendarmes; the members of the Council of War are to leave this evening or to-morrow morning by a man-of-war for Salonica. I beg your Excellency to be good enough to telegraph in the proper quarter the consequent instructions. The Imperial Commissioners have already received telegraphic orders in the same sense.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, June 3, 1876.*

PORTE informed Imperial Commission that military officers will be dispatched forthwith to Salonica to form a court-martial on military authorities. Delegates protest; I declined, but would refer to your Excellency.

Captain of "Swiftsure" informed by German captain that squadron is expected here, calling at Malta for coals. Is Admiral in Constantinople?

Inclosure 3 in No. 57.

Sir H. Elliot to Consul Blunt.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, June* 3, 1876.

THE French Ambassador and myself agree in considering that there is no ground for objecting to the military authorities being tried by a court-martial, as proposed by the Porte, but I do not know the opinion of the German Ambassador.

The Delegates will be present at the court-martial according to previous instructions.

No. 58.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 12.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June* 1, 1876.

THE public buildings, bazaars, Consulates, and foreign ships of war were all illuminated last night, and the manifestations of public joy were carried on with great freedom by all classes of the inhabitants. They all appear to be inspired with new life and energy, and all ardently hope and expect great and useful changes in the Government of the Empire.

Yesterday morning the Greek Metropolitan, accompanied by the Greek, and the Grand Rabbi, by the Jewish, Primates, and by the masters and children of their respective schools, waited on the Governor-General, and presented to his Excellency loyal addresses, and offered prayers for the Sultan.

The mercantile community also respectfully presented to his Excellency their congratulations.

There will be illuminations again to-night, but not on so large a scale as the two preceding nights, in consequence of this morning's conflagration, which, by all accounts, will leave a great many people in distress.

I have just received a telegram from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, reporting that the Proclamation of Sultan Murad has been received generally with satisfaction, and that perfect order and quiet prevail in Thessaly.

The apprehensions of disturbances recently reported from Cavalla have subsided.

Her Majesty's ship "Research" arrived at that port on the 30th ultimo, and the Acting British Vice-Consul suggests that she should remain there a few days longer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 59.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, June* 14, 1876.

COUNT MÜNSTER spoke to me, in an interview which I had with him on the 12th instant, on the subject of the insufficiency of the sentences which were reported to have been passed upon the Turkish officials implicated in the Salonica massacre. He stated that it appeared from despatches dated the 8th instant, received from the German and French Delegates, that the Colonel and Chief of the Police had been condemned to degradation and to imprisonment for one year, while the officer in command of the garrison, and the Commander of the corvette stationed in the port had only been sentenced to imprisonment for forty-five days. The ex-Governor, of whose culpability his Excellency considered there could be no doubt, was to all appearances to escape unpunished; and, though the Delegates had used their utmost endeavours to procure severe sentences calculated to satisfy the requirements of justice, they had completely failed.

Count Münster said that the German Government was much dissatisfied with these reports, and could not be content to accept this insufficient reparation.

I assured his Excellency in reply that I would communicate to Her Majesty's

Embassy at Constantinople by telegraph the substance of the information which he had given me. I reminded him that I had promised Baron Von der Brincken that Sir Henry Elliot should be instructed to continue to support the efforts of his German and French colleagues to bring to justice any persons who might be proved to have taken part in the murders, or to have actually instigated them; and I said that I would again direct his Excellency to support the German demands as far as he should consider them to be reasonable.

No. 60.

The Earl of Derby to Count Münster.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, June* 15, 1876.

SIR HENRY ELLIOT, to whom I telegraphed immediately after the receipt from your Excellency of the information which you were good enough to communicate to me on the 12th instant as to the insufficiency of the Salonica sentences, has informed me by telegraph that the sentences have been annulled, and that the inculpated officers and officials will be tried at Constantinople in the presence of delegates from the Embassies. Her Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction that the representations which Her Majesty's Ambassador had made, in accordance with those made by his colleagues, with the view of obtaining a revision of the sentences, have led to this result, which will doubtless avert the complications which your Excellency feared, if the Turkish Government should refuse to reconsider this question.

As the German and French delegates at Salonica appear to think that Her Majesty's Consul had not altogether exerted his influence in their favour, it has been decided that another British delegate shall attend the new trial. I must, however, explain that this decision must not be construed to imply that it is considered that the Consul has in any degree shown partiality or failed to support his colleagues with his best energies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 61.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, June* 15, 1876.

THE German Ambassador informs me that, from reports received from the German and French delegates at Salonica, bearing the date of 8th of June, it appears that the Colonel and Chief of Police has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment and degradation, and that the officer in command of the garrison, and of the corvette stationed in the port, have each received the lenient sentence of forty-five days' imprisonment.

The delegates state that they have made every effort to obtain severer sentences but in vain.

Count Münster added that the Imperial Government could not be satisfied with this result.

I have to instruct your Excellency to support the German demands as far as you consider them reasonable.

No. 62.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 15, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for your information, a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Lord Odo Russell,* informing him of a communication made to me by the German Ambassador respecting the alleged desire of the Porte to shield the more influential persons concerned in the murder of the Consuls at Salonica, and, in accordance with the intimation I have conveyed to the German Government, I

* No. 55.

have to request your Excellency to continue to act with your German and French colleagues in bringing to justice any persons who can be proved to have taken part in the murders, or actually to have instigated them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 63.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, May 28, 1876.*

THE French and German Ambassadors have informed Raschid Pasha of the amount of the indemnity required by their Governments for the families of the Consuls murdered at Salonica.

Six hundred thousand francs are demanded for the widow and children of the French Consul.

For the widow of the German Consul 300,000 francs are required. She has no children.

The Sultan had already intimated that a sum of money should be paid to the families.

No. 64.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May 28, 1876.*

ON the invitation of Raschid Pasha, my French and German colleagues and myself this morning met his Excellency to discuss some differences which he said had arisen between the Imperial Commissioners and the Delegates of the three Embassies who are conducting the inquiry into the Salonica murders.

According to his Excellency, the Delegates imagined themselves to be sitting as judges of the accused along with the Commissioners, which he did not consider to be their proper character.

We all concurred with the Minister in the opinion that the duty of the Delegates was to watch the proceedings, to endeavour to elicit all the facts, and to express their opinions freely as to the culpability of the accused, but not to take part in pronouncing the sentences.

Raschid Pasha next observed that the sentences upon the ordinary culprits could be executed without reference to the Porte, but that in the event of any functionary of the Government receiving a capital sentence the law required that it should receive the sanction of the Government before being carried out, and he hoped we should not object to this course being followed if, unfortunately, a functionary should be condemned to death; though he promised that there should be no delay in giving the necessary sanction.

We did not consider it possible to object to this.

His Excellency said that another case might arise upon which it was desirable that the Delegates should receive instruction, to prevent the occurrence of any difference between them and the Imperial Commissioners.

Any person found guilty of having instigated the murders would undergo capital punishment, exactly like those who had actually participated in the deed; but that those who had merely excited the people for a movement against the Authorities for the purpose of the recovery of the girl, would not, under the Turkish law, be held liable to it; and Raschid Pasha therefore hoped that we should not insist upon their being condemned to death.

The distinction made by the Minister between these two classes was too fair to be disputed, and we told him that we did not insist upon the infliction of any punishment beyond that which is sanctioned by the law of the country, but that we expected this to be vigorously and impartially applied.

The inclosed identic instruction was then drawn up, and after being shown to Raschid Pasha, who expressed himself satisfied with it, was transmitted by telegraph to our Delegates at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 64.

Identic Telegram from English, French, and German Ambassadors, to their Delegates on the Commission at Salonica, dated May 28, 1876.

LA Porte vient de nous faire part de certaines divergences de vues, qui se seraient produites, entre les Commissaires Ottomans et vous; nous nous sommes réunis avec Rachid Pacha et nous nous sommes arrêtés aux résolutions suivantes:—

1. Vous devez assister à tous les actes de la procédure, présenter vos observations et, au besoin, protester contre les actes qui vous paraîtraient de nature à vous décider à une semblable démarche, mais vous n'avez pas à prendre part à la prononciation même du jugement.

2. Vos droits sont les mêmes, dans les procédures dirigées contre les fonctionnaires que dans celles dirigées contre les autres prévenus.

3. Si la peine capitale était prononcée contre un fonctionnaire; d'après la loi, la sanction de la Porte est nécessaire. Si ce cas se produisait, avisez nous télégraphiquement, et nous insisterons pour que la Porte prenne une prompte décision.

4. Il a été demandé si la peine capitale doit être appliquée aux individus qui ont excité à la révolte, contre les autorités, sans avoir appelé aux armes. Nous répondons: toute la question est de savoir si ces actes ont le caractère de complicité; c'est une question de fait qui ne peut être théoriquement décidée et qui ne peut être jugée que sur les lieux. Si dans une question de fait il y avait divergence entre les Commissaires et vous, il en serait référé immédiatement à Constantinople, où la question serait discutée entre la Porte et les Ambassades.

(Translation.)

THE Porte has just acquainted us with certain differences of opinion which have arisen between the Ottoman Commissioners and yourselves. We have had an interview with Raschid Pasha and have arrived at the following resolutions:—

1. You are to take part in all the proceedings, offer your observations, and, if necessary, protest against acts which may appear of a nature to impel you to take such a step, but you are not to take part in the pronouncing of judgment.

2. Your rights are the same, in the proceedings directed against the authorities as in those against the other accused.

3. If capital punishment be pronounced against a functionary; in accordance with the law, the sanction of the Porte is necessary. If this case arise, advise us by telegraph, and we will insist on the Porte's arriving at a prompt decision.

4. The question has been asked if capital punishment ought to be enforced against the individuals who incited the revolt against the authorities without having appealed to arms. We answer, the whole question is to ascertain whether these acts present the character of complicity. It is a question of fact which cannot be theoretically decided, and which can only be decided upon the spot. If there were a difference of opinion as to a question of facts between the Commissioners and yourselves, it should be immediately referred to Constantinople, where the question will be discussed between the Porte and the Embassies.

No. 65.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 16.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 8, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of an address which has been presented by the British residents at Salonica to Mr. Blunt, and forwarded by them to me, in which they express themselves in high terms of his conduct and services during the late disorders.

I may add that the United States' Admiral Worden, who arrived here a few days ago from Salonica, also speaks highly of the judgment and tact that have been exhibited by Mr. Blunt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Address of British Residents at Salonica to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 29, 1876.

WE, the undersigned British subjects, on our own behalf, and on behalf of our own fellow countrymen residing in the town of Salonica and its vicinity, would avail ourselves of this opportunity to express to you our unabated esteem and regard for your person and office.

The opportunity created by the late lamentable occurrences is to us a most unwelcome occasion for conveying to you our assurances whether of goodwill or appreciation of the public services you were so recently called upon to perform. But with the late sad events full in view wherein the goodness and severity of God were so strikingly displayed, we would recognize in your preservation from the hands of wicked men a signal interposition of the Divine favour.

In begging you to accept of our hearty congratulations upon your exemption from bodily harm, we would commend you anew to His keeping who so mercifully spared you to your family, to us, and to the service of your country.

The solicitude that prompted you at imminent personal risk to undertake the release of your late colleagues of France and Germany from the power of an infuriated populace calls for our special commendation.

Although unsuccessful in the main purpose of your high endeavour, your services, nevertheless, in procuring the prompt removal of the principal cause of disturbances contributed materially, in our humble opinion, to the restoration of public tranquillity.

When valuable and innocent lives were being sacrificed to an insensate hate we refuse to contemplate the extent of evil and mischief the uncontrollable fury of the populace once awakened might, but for your timely intervention, have perpetrated.

The anxiety for the better protection of the life and property of those more immediately placed under your care that you manifested in summoning naval reinforcements, besides increasing our confidence in your resources in times of emergency at the same time places us under an additional weight of obligation to you.

Your selection by his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador as a fit and proper person to represent your country in the Court of Assize commissioned to adjudicate upon all matters arising out of the late disturbances, while naturally agreeable and complimentary to yourself, confers, we feel, a reflex honour on ourselves.

Our inability to worthily mark our sense of obligation this participation involves, leads us to invite the cooperation of Her Majesty's Ambassador to obtain from the Home Government the recognition the occasion seems to us to demand and your services to merit.

The aspersions that are being studiously circulated in the public papers with the intent to damage your character and repute, we, Her Majesty's subjects residing within this Consular district, and who ought to know best, indignantly repudiate and would characterize as calumnious.

In apologizing for thus abruptly wounding your tenderest susceptibilities, we beg your acceptance of this our humble and dutiful address, and wishing you long life, full of honour and usefulness, we respectfully subscribe ourselves as under.

(Here follow the signatures.)

No. 66.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 17.)

My Lord, *Salonica, May* 26, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the letter which I have addressed to the Greek Metropolitan in reply to the one I received from him on the subject of the recent occurrences at this place.

The Governor-General has spoken most highly to me of the efforts which are made by the Metropolitan to calm the fears of the Christians, and to assist the Ottoman authorities to preserve public tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 66.

Consul Blunt to the Greek Metropolitan.

Eminence, *Saloniqne, le 25 Mai*, 1876.

J'AI reçu la lettre que votre Eminence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser, me transmettant une copie de la communication que votre Eminence a adressée au Consulat de France en cette résidence, repoussant avec indignation (que je vous prie de croire j'éprouve aussi) les bruits que la malveillance fait répandre contre votre communauté et exprimant les sentiments de sympathie et de profonde douleur que cette honorable communauté, qui est si dignement représentée par votre Eminence, éprouve à la suite du crime odieux qui a jeté cette ville en deuil.

Je me suis empressé, Eminence, de transmettre à mon Gouvernement, une copie de votre communication, et je saisis, &c.

(Signé) J. E. BLUNT.

(Translation.)

Eminence, *Salonica, May* 25, 1876.

I HAVE received the letter which your Eminence did me the honour of addressing to me, inclosing copy of the communication which your Eminence addressed to the Consulate of France in this capital, repelling with indignation (which I beg you to believe I also feel) the rumours that malevolence is spreading against your community, and expressing the sentiments of sympathy and of profound grief which that honourable community, so worthily represented by your Eminence, feels in consequence of the odious crime which has cast this town into mourning.

I have not failed, Eminence, to transmit to my Government a copy of your communication, and I take advantage, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 67.

Count Münster to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

(Translation.)

My Lord, *German Embassy, June* 18, 1876.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Excellency's very courteous note of the 15th instant, relative to the nullification of the judgments of the court-martial at Salonica, and have hastened to make the Imperial Government acquainted with the contents thereof.

I beg your Excellency to accept my equally cordial and very respectful thanks for this interesting communication, and for the obliging and apposite manner in which your Excellency has so readily complied with the wish of the Imperial Government.

With, &c.

(Signed) MÜNSTER.

No. 68.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, June* 10, 1876.

THE French and German Ambassadors called upon me yesterday together, the former having just communicated to the Grand Vizier and Raschid Pasha, for himself and his colleague, a telegram they had received from their delegates at Salonica, reporting the inadequacy of the sentences passed upon the military officers whose conduct was impugned in the late occurrences.

According to this report these officers upon receiving orders to take troops to the mosque where the Consuls were retained by the mob answered that the girl should first be given up, and they were afterwards found quietly smoking their cigarettes.

If this statement is correct, sentences of one year's imprisonment and of forty-five days' arrest certainly appear wholly inadequate for conduct which was followed by such a tragical result.

My colleagues said that they had telegraphed to their Governments for the instructions which this report might call for, and I said I would likewise telegraph to your Lordship.

I first, however, directed Mr. Blunt to report the particulars; but I have nothing yet from him beyond the expression of an opinion that the sentences are too lenient, and I do not see how any correct judgment can be formed on the case till we receive a full written report upon it.

No. 69.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 19.)

(Extract.) *Berlin, June 13, 1876.*

HERR VON BULOW tells me that Count Münster has been instructed to solicit the assistance of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the punishment of the murderers of the French and German Consuls at Salonica.

The German Government consider that the murder of a Consul is too grave a matter to admit of any but the fullest and most complete satisfaction, and they are prepared to insist on the real authors of the murder being brought to justice if the Turkish authorities should attempt to evade the just expectations of the German and French Governments in this matter.

No. 70.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, June 21, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the identic instructions addressed by your Excellency, in concert with your French and German colleagues, to the delegates of the three Embassies who are conducting the inquiry into the late murders at Salonica, a copy of which is inclosed in your despatch of the 28th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 71.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, June 21, 1876.*

HER Majesty's Government have read with much satisfaction your Excellency's despatch of the 8th instant, inclosing the copy of an address which had been presented to Mr. Blunt by the British residents at Salonica, expressing their appreciation of his conduct and services during the late disorders, and reporting the testimony borne by the United States' Admiral Warden to the judgment and tact exhibited by Mr. Blunt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 72.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 14, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a despatch from Mr. Blunt, bringing forward the meritorious conduct of the Consular cavass on the occasion of the murder of the two Consuls, and I beg leave strongly to recommend this man to your Lordship's favourable consideration.

Hussein Agha has been twenty years in Mr. Blunt's service as cavass, and receives 4*l.* a month out of the office allowances.

Mr. Blunt cannot afford to give him more, and I would submit to your Lordship

whether some additional pay might not be authorized, in consideration of the exceptionally great services which have been rendered by him.

The despatch which I now inclose shows to how great an extent it was owing to Mr. Blunt's own courage and activity, and to the manner in which he was seconded by his cavass, that Salonica was saved from becoming the scene of far more serious occurrences.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, June 6, 1876.*

I DEEM it my duty to bring under the favourable notice of your Excellency the faithful, active, and resolute conduct of the first cavass of this Consulate, Hussein Agha, during the occurrences at this place on the 6th ultimo.

In order to do full justice to his services, I must relate in detail the events of that unfortunate day, and the immediate steps taken by myself for the preservation of my unhappy colleagues, and, subsequently, of the community.

When I got in the midst of the crowd I was surrounded by several unarmed Turks, and urged by them not to proceed to the Mosque, but I insisted upon doing so, and I appealed to their religion and honour in the most impressive words I could use, and summoned them to follow me to the rescue of the two Consuls.

Hussein Agha at first tried to dissuade me from going, but seeing that I was determined to reach my colleagues, he also appealed to his co-religionists; some six or seven Mahommedans (unarmed) came forward and offered their services.

We (that is to say, these Mahommedans, Hussein Agha, and myself) ran in the direction of the Mosque.

On passing the old Bank, we found the crowd denser; and when we got past the prison gate, and crossed the street leading to the konak, we met many armed men, principally Albanians,

Here, again, the Mahommedans who followed me entreated me to proceed no further, and some others (also not armed) in the crowd, on recognizing me, approached me and told me not to venture in the Mosque.

I again appealed to all peaceably disposed Mahommedans to assist me to protect the Consuls; some more joined my party, and we pushed our way with difficulty through what was now an armed mob.

On passing the burnt tree, and about fifteen yards from the Mosque gate, Yashar Agha, the cavass of the French Consulate (who next morning told me he had heard some Albanians in the mob cry out in their own language to seize and despatch me) rushed forward, caught me by the arm, entreating and urging me to turn back at once.

Hussein Agha, and the Mahommedans who stood by me, also insisted upon our beating a retreat.

Here a fellow—a native Turk—came up to me and put his hand on my shoulder and said:—

"The only way, Bey, to save the Consuls, is to have the girl delivered up. Do this, and all may be saved."

I promised in the name of Her Majesty's Consulate, and in the name of the other Consulates that the girl would be restored to the Turkish Authorities, and I again strongly appealed to their feelings; but those who surrounded and protected me, said it was useless to remain there, and one of them remarked to me that a letter from me to Mr. Lazzaro would yet be in time.

We hurried round to the konak close by, and at the gate I got a piece of paper from the guard room, and wrote off the following hurried note* to Mr. Lazzaro, which I confided to Hussein Agha, with a verbal order to try and find the girl, and, if necessary, to take her away by force, and bring her with all haste to the konak:—

"Mon cher Pericles,

"Allant à l'assistance de Moulin et Abbott, renfermés par populace dans une mosquée

* I am enabled to give a copy, as Mr. Alfred Abbott, whom my cavass met just before reaching Mr. Lazzaro's house, told him, after reading and returning my note, that it was useless his going to Mr. Lazzaro's, as he (Mr. Abbott), had discovered where the girl was concealed, and would deliver her up to him.

avec le Vali, j'ai vu que l'affaire est très dangereuse et Mahomédans très excités. Quelques-uns m'ont forcés rebrousser chemin pour apaiser populace; faut absolument envoyer la fille au konak, où je suis, et resterai pour assister mes collègues.*

(Signed) "BLUNT, *Consul.*"

Immediately the girl was delivered up to Hussein Agha by Mr. Alfred Abbott and Mr. Avyerinos (a Greek merchant under Austrian protection) he, with two policemen and some Turks who accompanied him, returned to the konak with all possible speed. On the way, and not far from the telegraph station, they met the armed mob howling and hooting, evidently going down to the Greek quarter—to the American Consulate, it is presumed.

Hussein Agha and his party cried out that the girl had been surrendered, and was in their possession. At first the mob would not believe him; weapons were pointed at him, and one fellow took a deliberate aim, but his pistol missed fire. The zaptiehs (police) confirmed Hussein Agha as to the identity of the girl, and the mob, now convinced that the girl was in their possession, stopped, turned back, and fired off their rifles and pistols, a sort of *feu de joie*, and cheered continuously.

They next required Hussein Agha and the police to take the girl to the konak, and place her in charge of the Pasha.

I was in the konak about this time, when the Pasha had returned from the mosque in a state of excitement, and was trying to explain to me what had happened.

I was horrified, and could not and would not believe that the Consuls had been murdered. Hearing the firing he got very much alarmed, and I thought that either the police were firing at the mob, or that a general massacre had commenced. The Pasha cried out to me, "Do not expose yourself! For God's sake, don't let them see you; they are like mad wolves!" I at once required him to open his harem, that I might, if necessary, attempt my escape through his private apartments. He complied with my demand, and on his opening the door some members of his family, screaming and shrieking, attempted to rush out.

I next urged the Pasha to go down to the courtyard, and place himself at the head of the Ottoman marines, who had just arrived, and attack and disperse the mob. He promised to do so. I then managed to despatch a few words to the Consulate, to let them know where I was, and that I was using my influence with the authorities; and apprehending a great catastrophe, I forthwith penned my telegram to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens, calling for the presence of a ship-of-war for the protection of British subjects. I applied to Athens as the Piræus is the nearest naval station to Salonica.

Fearing, however, that the telegraph wires might be cut down by the mob, and in order to lose no time, I summoned an employé from the telegraph-station, which is situate in the konak, and placed my message in his hands, holding him responsible for its immediate and safe transmission. This message was wired through Constantinople, and preceded by two hours the messages sent that evening on the subject. I next wrote out my telegram to your Excellency, advising you of what had happened.

This message was dispatched about an hour after the one I addressed to our Legation at Athens. I had scarcely written it out when Hussein Agha arrived in the konak with the girl, followed by delegates from the mob, who saw her delivered up to the Pasha. They required him to take charge of her, and to cause an inquiry to be made into her case. After this the mob quietly dispersed.

In thus describing to your Excellency the above incidents my only object has been to do justice to the noble and faithful conduct of my cavass, Hussein Agha, who at the risk of his life executed with courage and promptness the orders I gave him; and I should observe that, had he not succeeded in recovering the girl, and in satisfying the mob as to her identity, many more innocent lives would have been sacrificed.

It was most providential that he took the route by which the mob were descending, as they, ignoring that the girl had been surrendered, would have carried out their project of attacking the American Consulate, which being situated in the Greek quarter, the Greeks, who were also armed, would have resisted the attack, and the town, and probably the whole province, would have been plunged into a state of complete anarchy.

I must not omit also to submit to your Excellency's favourable consideration the name of Yasha Agha, a cavass of the French Consulate. He most generously came to my assistance and protection, and it was greatly owing to his resolute and manly conduct that several other Mahommedans also came forward to protect me.

* Previous notes had been sent from the mosque by the German Consul, Mr. Henry Abbott, without any effect.

I beg to inclose a copy of a letter which I have addressed on the subject to the French Consulate here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 22.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, June 15, 1876.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the telegraphic Report from Mr. Blunt upon the evidence given on the trial of the officers alluded to.

Although, according to Mr. Blunt, the observation of the officer that the girl ought first to be restored, was not made as a preliminary condition to his taking the troops to the mosque, the insufficiency of the sentences, which I had not failed to represent to the Porte, seems to be fully admitted. My French and German colleagues received instructions from their Governments to insist that the sentences should be annulled, and experienced no difficulty in obtaining from the Porte a promise that the case should be transferred, and reheard here in the presence of their Delegates, who have consequently been summoned from Salonica.

It is usual, and is regarded as a right upon which we have always insisted, that the trial of persons accused of being implicated in the death of a British subject should take place in the presence of a dragoman of the Embassy or Consulate, and it will probably be advisable that this course shall be followed on the present occasion when the three Embassies will be on the same footing without risk, it may be hoped, of misunderstanding among their Delegates.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, June 10, 1876.*

ACCORDING to evidence it seems to me that observation of officer that girl should be restored did not apply to execution of orders received from Governor-General, and, according to Italian Consul's opinion, was made in answer to his request to take troops to mosque, and seems to him was inspired by emergency of the moment. Officers were not found smoking, but French Acting-Consul deposed having seen some of their troops doing so. The detention of marines thirty minutes at fortress after they were landed is not considered by Court an act of disobedience, but negligence.

No. 74.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 24.)

(Extract.) *Paris, June 23, 1876.*

THE Duke Decazes told me this morning that some of the subordinate officers who had neglected their duty at the time of the murders at Salonica had been sentenced to punishments which might be regarded as adequate; but that there seemed to be no disposition to inflict a sufficient penalty upon the Governor, who was far more culpable. The subordinate officers had received no orders from the Governor, and their inaction was, therefore, so far excusable; and it really aroused a strong feeling of indignation to think of the subordinates being more severely punished than their much more guilty chief.

The Duke told me that he intended to appoint M. Mallet, a nephew of the great banker here, M. Charles Mallet, to be French Consul at Salonica. He said that M. Mallet had at one time been in charge of the Consulate at Rustchuk, and that he was now Consul at Adrianople, and that he was, therefore, well acquainted with Turkey, and with the particular characters of the Bulgarian and Greek races, to which a large part of the population of Salonica belonged.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received June 30.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, June 19, 1876.*

THE French Ambassador called upon me yesterday and asked whether I would join him and the German Ambassador in a representation they were going to make to the Porte demanding that in the fresh trial to be held upon the officers implicated in the Salonica tragedy, the depositions taken at the first trial before the Commissioner and in the presence of the Delegates should be held sufficient without reopening the case from the beginning.

I said I was quite ready to make a similar representation, but at the same time I told my colleague that if it should turn out that the accused had a legal right to have their witnesses heard before the new Court, I should be unable to insist upon their being deprived of it.

No. 76.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 3.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June 18, 1876.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, copies of my Report, with three inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Elliot, relative to the proceedings of the Imperial Commission of Inquiry into the murders of the French and German Consuls at this place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 76.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Salonica, June 18, 1876.*

I HAVE only time, owing to the early departure of the mail, to forward, herewith inclosed, a translated statement, with an abridged list, relative to the conviction of the individuals who have been directly or indirectly implicated in the murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica on Saturday, the 6th of May, 1876.

I should report that the proceedings during the trial of the culprits were conducted with forbearance, dignity, and coolness, and in an impartial manner by the Imperial Commissioners, Eshref Pasha and Vahan Effendi; and I am bound to say that both Commissioners have allowed to the foreign delegates who attended the inquiry the utmost latitude compatible with the Turkish law and the capitulations.

I also inclose a plan of the konak, and of the mosque where the two Consuls were murdered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 76.

Statement relative to Convictions of Individuals implicated in Murder of French and German Consuls.

(Traduction.)

1. Tcherkez Yaver, l'esclave d'Ali Effendi, boulanger, accusé d'avoir frappé et blessé les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne, fut condamné à mort et exécuté le 16 Mai, 1876.

2. Arab Merdjan, portefaix, accusé d'avoir frappé et blessé les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne, fut condamné à la peine capitale et exécuté le 16 Mai, 1876.

3. Hussein Effendi, fils d'Ibrahim Effendi, sans un était vivant au dépend de son frère, accusé d'avoir frappé et blessé les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne, fut condamné à la peine capitale et exécuté le 16 Mai, 1876.

4. Bochak Ibrahim, sans aucune profession, joueur aux cartes, est accusé d'avoir

frappé et blessé les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne, fut condamné à la peine capitale et exécuté le 16 Mai, 1876.

5. Kermezi Tchebguenli Amich Chakir, encore nommé Ferhat, domestique, accusé d'avoir frappé et blessé les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne, fut condamné à la peine capitale et exécuté le 16 Mai, 1876.

6. Ouzoun Suleyman, mémour d'abattoir, vivant en partie de ce metier, en partie de la bourse de son père, accusé d'avoir frappé et blessé les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne, fut condamné et exécuté le 16 Mai, 1876.

7. Berber Memich de Salonique, fils de Mehmed, barbier de profession, accusé d'avoir été vu pendant l'emeute, poussant la foule sur les escaliers et s'efforçant de monter et d'avoir enfin crié " nous voulons la fille." Il a été condamné à 3 ans aux travaux forcés à partir de la date du 3 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

8. Ibrahim, fils d'Ali, demeurant à Salonique au quartier Porta. Cuisinier lui-même, accusé d'avoir été vu pendant l'emeute, dans la cour de la mosquée et tenant une barre de fer dans ses mains après que le meurtre avait eu lieu, et d'avoir enfin été vu s'efforçant de monter les escaliers et faisant de tumulte dans la salle ; il a été condamné aux travaux forcés à perpétuité.

9. Helvadje Abdullah, encore nommé Amich, fils d'Ahmed, vivant de la vente de l'helva, est accusé de s'être introduit dans la chambre où les Consuls étaient enfermés. Cependant il avait été remarqué qu'il ne possédait aucune arme. Il est condamné à trois ans d'emprisonnement à partir de la date du 3 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

10. Moumin, fils de Moussi, du district Langaza, domestique, est accusé d'avoir été vu brisant la barre de la fenêtre et s'introduisant le premier dans la chambre. On la vu tenant dans ses mains un morceau de bois ou de fer sans cependant le voir frappant les Consuls. Il est condamné aux travaux forcés à perpétuité.

11. Armurier Moustapha, fils de Mehmed, du district d'Ochrida. Il a sa boutique à Salonique et s'occupe de son metier. Accusé d'avoir été vu, des armes à la main, près de la mosquée, après que le crime s'est perpétré. Il est condamné à cinq ans aux travaux forcés à partir de la date du 3 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

12. Armurier Veli, fils d'Abdul Rahman, du district Débré. Il a sa boutique à Salonique, et s'occupe de son metier. Accusé d'avoir été vu des armes à la main près de la mosquée après que le crime s'est perpétré. Condamné à cinq ans aux travaux forcés à partir de la date du 3 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

13. Armurier Aloch, fils du Veli susmentionné. Il a sa boutique à Salonique, et s'occupe de son metier. Accusé d'avoir été vu, des armes à la main, près de la mosquée après que le crime s'est perpétré. Condamné à cinq ans aux travaux forcés à partir de la date du 3 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

14. Armurier Redjeb, fils de Sonan, du district Débré. Il a sa boutique à Salonique, et s'occupe de son metier. Accusé d'avoir été vu, des armes à la main, près de la mosquée après que le crime s'est perpétré. Condamné à cinq ans aux travaux forcés à partir de la date du 3 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

15. Armurier Adem, fils de Nouma, du district Débré. Il a sa boutique à Salonique, et s'occupe de son metier. Accusé d'avoir été vu, des armes à la main, près de la mosquée après que le crime s'est perpétré. Condamné à cinq ans aux travaux forcés à partir de la date du 3 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

16. Arab Sali, encore nommé Agho Cafedjés, accusé d'avoir frappé et blessé les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne, et ayant des antécédents, a été condamné à la peine capitale.

17. Bouzdjou Méto, demeurant à Yali Capousson, accusé d'avoir frappé et blessé les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne, est condamné à la peine capital.

18. Hussein Effendi, du district Tchebekli, acheteur de dîmes et fabricateur de peau, est accusé d'avoir invité le peuple à se grouper, sans armes, et d'avoir instigué la foule dans la Mosquée de Hamza Bey d'aller réclamer la fille ou de périr pour l'amour de la religion ; d'avoir été un des premiers à s'introduire auprès du Gouverneur-Général, et d'avoir été remarqué à la Mosquée de Saatli. Il a été condamné à trois ans d'emprisonnement à partir de la date du 5 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

19. Hadji Mehmed Agha, acheteur de dîmes, accusé d'avoir invité le peuple à se grouper, sans armes, et d'avoir instigué la foule, dans la Mosquée de Hamza Bey, d'aller réclamer la fille ou de périr pour l'amour de la religion ; d'avoir été un des premiers à s'introduire auprès du Gouverneur-Général, d'avoir été enfin remarqué dans la Mosquée de Saatli, et condamné à trois ans d'emprisonnement à partir de la date du 5 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

20. Ali Pache (évadé), acheteur de dîmes, accusé d'avoir invité le peuple à se grouper sans armes à la Mosquée de Hamza Bey, d'avoir instigué la foule d'aller réclamer la fille,

ou bien de périr pour l'amour de la religion, d'avoir été un des premiers à s'introduire auprès du Gouverneur-Général, et d'avoir été enfin remarqué dans la Mosquée de Saatli, condamné par défaut à cinq ans aux travaux forcés à partir de la date du 5 Djemajul-evvel, 1293.

21. Baghdadli Mehmed, cavass, anciennement cavass à la Sublime Porte, depourvu d'emploi, allant et venant à Salonique pour ses affaires particulières, accusé d'avoir excité et instigué les habitants des Khans le jour de l'événement et d'avoir été vu à la station le jour d'avant Vendredi, à l'arrivée de la fille à Salonique, comme aussi à la Mosquée de Saatli le jour du meurtre. Condamné à dix ans aux travaux forcés.

22. Courd Ali, anier, accusé d'avoir crié dans les rues invitant en engagent le peuple à fermer les boutiques et à se reunir à la Mosquée de Saatli et d'avoir été un des premiers à s'introduire auprès du Gouverneur-Général et d'avoir été remarqué à la dite mosquée. Condamné a cinq ans aux travaux forcés à partir de la date du 5 Djemajulevvel, 1293.

23. Hadji Linan, charpentier, accusé d'avoir été l'instigateur de l'émeute et d'avoir conduit à la Mosquée des Albanais armés. Condamné à dix ans aux travaux forcés.

24. Telal Dal Mehmed, courtier, accusé d'avoir été un des premiers à s'introduire auprès du Gouverneur-Général et d'avoir été reconnu instigateur, condamné à cinq ans aux travaux forcés.

25. Pechtemaldji Hamich Agha, domestique, accusé d'avoir instigué et invité le peuple à se reunir, le jour de l'événement, à la Mosquée. Condamné à cinq ans aux travaux forcés.

26. Frongali Hadji Ibrahim Tchavouch, cuisinier et pompier à la foi, accusé d'avoir incité le peuple à s'armer et d'avoir été du nombre de ceux qui ont frappé et blessé les Consuls de France et d'Allemagne. Condamné à la peine capitale.

27. Durgher Oustassi Mehmed (évadé), maçon, accusé d'avoir incité le peuple à s'armer. Condamné par défaut à la peine capitale.

28. Tchavouch Hadji Emin Effendi, rentier, accusé d'avoir par sa présence sur les lieux encouragé le peuple de s'y tenir ferme et d'avoir été reconnu comme principal instigateur de l'émeute et de la foule qui y était armée. Condamné à mort.

29. Durgher Oustassi Youssouf, maçon, accusé d'avoir été instigateur de l'émeute et condamné à cinq ans aux travaux forcés.

30. Ousta Youman, maçon, accusé d'avoir été instigateur de l'émeute et condamné à cinq ans aux travaux forcés.

32. Mudjelid Hassan Effendi, relieur et , accusé d'avoir le jour de l'événement, au bazar, incité le peuple à s'armer et à se rendre à la Mosquée de Saatli, d'avoir été présent à la réunion tenue à la Mosquée d'Hamza Bey. Condamné aux travaux forcés à perpétuité.

32. Bessim Effendi, Talebé, originaire de Yanina, district Lehova, vivant au dépend de son frère, sans profession, se trouvant à Salonique pour solliciter les fonctions de Naiblik, accusé d'avoir dit au bazar après que le meurtre a été commis, que lui-même avait donné deux coups de poignards aux Consuls, condamné à la peine capitale.

33. Yacoub Effendi Katib, fils d'Ismail, employé à l'imprimerie. Accusé d'avoir été remarqué seulement dans la salle, et il est condamné à un mois d'emprisonnement.

34. Yessirdji Salih, fils d'Eumer, collégien de onze ans, accusé d'avoir pris la montre du Consul d'Allemagne après l'assassinat. Il a été fouetté.

35. Emin Effendi, Membre du Conseil d'Administration du Vilayet, et premier greffier du Tribunal, religieux, condamné à trois ans d'exil à Tripoli, d'Afrique, pour le peu de confiance qu'il inspire.

Inclosure 3 in No. 76.

Names of the Individuals who have been condemned by the Imperial Commission for being directly or indirectly implicated in the Murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica, on the 6th of May, 1876.

Condemned to Death.

1. Tcherkess Yaver.
2. Arab Mirjan.
3. Hussein Effendi.
4. Bosniak Ibrahim.
5. Amich Shakir.
6. Ozoun Suleiman.

(These six were publicly executed on Tuesday, May 16, 1876, at 5 P.M., in presence of Eshref Pasha, Imperial Commissioner, the French and German Delegates, and the British Consul.)

7. Arab Salih Agó, not executed yet.
8. Bouzji Metto, ditto.
9. Prangali Hadji Ibrahim, ditto.
10. Dulguer Oustassi Mehmed, ditto.
11. Tchaoush Hadji Emin Effendi, ditto.
12. Bessim Effendi, ditto.

Condemned to Prison for Life, with Hard Labour.

1. Ibrahim, son of Ali.
2. Moumin, son of Moussi.
3. Mujelid Hassan Effendi.

Condemned to Prison for 10 *Years, with Hard Labour.*

1. Bagdadli Mehmed, cavass.
2. Hadji Sinan.

Condemned to Prison for 5 *Years, with Hard Labour.*

1. Mustapha, gunsmith, Albanian.
2. Veli, son of Abdul Rahman, gunsmith, ditto.
3. Alosh, son of Veli, gunsmith, ditto.
4. Redjeb, son of Sinan, gunsmith, ditto.
5. Adem, son of Nouma, gunsmith, ditto.
6. Ali Bashi, gunsmith, ditto.
7. Kourt Ali, ditto.
8. Telal Dal Mehmed, ditto.
9. Hamsah Agha, ditto.
10. Dulguer Ousta Jussef, ditto.
11. Ousta Nouman, ditto.

Condemned to Prison for 3 *Years with Hard Labour.*

1. Berber Memich.
2. Halvaji Abdullah.
3. Hussein Effendi.
4. Hadji Mehmed Agha.

Condemned to Transportation for 3 *Years.*

1. Emin Effendi.

Condemned to Prison for 1 *Month.*

1. Yacoub Effendi Kiatib.

Salih, a boy of 11 years of age, was whipped for stealing the watch of the German Consul after he was murdered.

In all, 35 culprits.

No. 77.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 2.)

My Lord, *Salonica, June* 21, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a further report, with three inclosures, which I addressed yesterday to Sir Henry Elliot, relative to the proceedings of the Imperial Commission of Inquiry into the murders of the French and German Consuls at this place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 77.

Consul Blunt to Sir H. Elliot.

(Extract.) *Salonica, June* 20, 1876.

IN continuation of my Report of the 18th instant, relative to the proceedings of the Imperial Commission of Inquiry into the murders of the French and German Consuls at Salonica, I have the honour to inclose herewith the translations of the preliminary depositions of Selim Bey, ex-Colonel of Salonica Police, and of two of his subordinate officers. I also inclose translated copies of the evidence of the Arab woman, Rushen; of the Bulgarian girl, Stephana; and of her mother, Mario; as well as translated copies of the evidence which was taken at the village, Bogdantza, by a Commission sent there at my suggestion by the Imperial Commissioners, for the purpose of inquiring into the alleged connection of Emin Effendi, Member of the Local Medjliss, with the conversion of the Bulgarian girl, Stephana.

I very much regret that I have not been able to procure, for transmission to your Excellency, copies of all the evidence which has been taken by the Imperial Commission, bearing on the murder of the Consuls. It is, of course, very voluminous, and the clerks of the Court had no time to prepare copies for me before their return to Constantinople. They told me that the Porte would furnish them if applied for by Her Majesty's Embassy.

The details of the facts which have been elicited by the inquiry respecting the murder of the consuls, as well as all the circumstances bearing on the conversion and subsequent violent seizure by the Christians of the Bulgarian girl, prove that the Greeks and Bulgarians were the primary cause of the outbreak; that their assault of the police and their violent seizure of the girl, in a public and aggravating manner, offended the religious and political susceptibilities of the Mahomedans; that, in short, the fanatic zeal of the former excited the fanatic fury of the latter, and directed it to one object, the restoration of the girl to the authorities.

Had the girl been restored at once, in answer to the Governor's summons there would have been no bloodshed; and it is a very significant fact that immediately the mob saw the girl in the possession of my cavass, and were satisfied that she was placed in charge of the Pasha, they dispersed without making any further disturbances.

While the Mahomedans in this city have had no deliberate intention or desire to attack the Christians, still their feelings for some time past were becoming excited and agitated from various causes, of which I may mention the following as the most active: the long duration of the insurrection in the Herzegovina, and the impunity with which Montenegro and Servia encourage and assist the insurgents; the growing unpopularity of the late Sultan; the policy of his Grand Vizier, Mahmoud Pasha; and the mutual suspicions and alarms engendered among the inhabitants by vague rumours of fanatical outbreaks, which were industriously circulated by evil-intentioned persons.

It is not difficult, therefore, to imagine how a people whose minds have been worked into an abnormal state of agitation, took offence and burst into violent action when they felt that their religious sentiments and prejudices had been publicly slighted and dishonoured.

In making the above few remarks my only object was to endeavour to explain the causes which produced this Mahomedan outbreak.

I do not in the least attempt to attenuate the horrible results which accompanied it, nor to lessen the culpability of the ex-Governor-General and his subordinates for not taking active and efficient measures to disperse the mob and protect the lives of the Consuls.

Inclosure 2 in No. 77.

Preliminary Deposition of Colonel Selim Bey, Alai Bey, or Ex-Chief of Salonica Police.

ON Friday (the 5th May), at 11 o'clock (Turkish time), I went on the quay. One hour and a-half afterwards I returned to the konak; and the sergeant on guard gave me notice that a row had taken place at the railway station; on my asking what had occurred, I was told that a girl had put on a ferejeh and yashmak and wanted to become a Mussulman. She told the police at the station, and a corporal with two men took charge of her to escort her to the konak; there was an Arab woman with them near the railway store-house; they were pursued by Jack Abbott's son. When a carriage approached Jack's son tore off the ferejeh, the girl begged the zaptiehs (police) to protect her, a large crowd fell

on them and took the girl by force from the police and put her in the carriage. A certain Costaki Hanji, a Bulgarian, went with her, and the carriage was escorted by two Europeans on horseback. A certain Handji Vassili also assisted; they were apprehended and put in prison. I reported the circumstances to the Pasha, and received orders to make inquires where the girl had been taken with a view to her recovery. Towards 3 to 4 o'clock on Saturday morning a crowd assembled in the konak; I went out of the Pasha's room and told the chiefs or leaders that they were wrong in collecting such a crowd and asked them what they wanted. They said, "The girl." I told them to wait a few hours and the girl would be surrendered; but they would not listen. I then gave notice to the Pasha who opened the windows and summoned the crowd to disperse. The Pasha also called Ibrahim-Bey, and I went to the crowd and advised them to disperse and go about their business; and to leave a few delegates to see what the Pasha was taking measures to get the girl back. The crowd was not armed but impertinent and menacing. Here the ex-Chief of police was asked why he did not use force to disperse the crowd. He answered, "I had not sufficient force—only 20 men—and the crowd was composed of 100 men at least." Deposition continued.

Emin Tchaouch, Multezim Hadji Hassan, Tchiboukli Hussein Effendi, and Contract Meimsuri Daoud-Bey were at the head of the crowd. They were exhorted by Ibrahim-Bey to disperse. Then the Hakim-Effendi came, and other members of the Medjliss. I heard Ibrahim-Bey exhort the people to go away, but it was useless; and in the meantime they increased in numbers. I went to the Pasha and told him the affair was coming serious. Then the Pasha ordered me to send the Tabour-Agha and Ali-Agha with some police to the Frank quarter to see that the crowd should not go there. The crowd began to leave the konak and go to the Mosque. We told the Pasha, who wanted to go there, but the Mektoubji strongly advised him not to go. The Pasha then ordered me and the members of the Medjliss to go to the Mosque. We went and took about twenty men; we found the flag flying in the middle of the Mosque's Court-yard, and the crowd menacing to kill us if the girl was not surrendered. I then went to the Pasha and told him that the crowd was very offensive, and that he would do well to call on the ships of war to land marines. Orders in writing were despatched for these marines and also to the Rediff Miralaie Bey to send gunners, but Atta Bey the Miralai was not in the fortress. I also met the Captain Izzet-Bey of the iron-clad and told him that as an order was being written to him to land his marines, he had better go on board to prepare for their landing. Izzet-Bey answered that his men had landed in the morning and gone to "Besh Tchinar" (public gardens) to eat the "Hidrelez Kozon" (a holiday or picnic given every year during spring to the men). Izzet-Bey went after his men. Shortly after this the Consuls came to the Mosque, and seeing the state of affairs I went to the Pasha and told him the Consuls were there. The Pasha jumped up and said "Aman, who brought them?" He immediately went to the Mosque. He wanted to pass through the crowd, and it was with difficulty he managed to do so, and to get into the room where the Consuls and Medjliss were seated. The Pasha began talking with the Consuls, but I did not understand what they said. I stood near the door trying to prevent the crowd from coming up; not having sufficient troops to oppose the crowd I sent for the Tabour Agha and the Yuz-bashi, whom I had sent to the Tcharsi. They came with a few men, but I do not know how many. Yuz-bashi Ali-Agha came up and Ahmet-Effendi. The crowd was trying to come in. We were pushing them away, but it was difficult, so I told the Pasha. His Excellency got pale. The French Consul asked me, "Are we prisoners here?" I told him no, "We are only trying to get the crowd dispersed." At this time a stone was thrown and a window broken, and I saw people aiming with their guns. Here Atta-Bey arrived. I immediately asked him "Have you brought the topchus (gunners)?" He answered "No; no mazbata has been sent to me." The Pasha then ordered him to go immediately and bring his men. He went, and in getting down (into the yard) he was surrounded by the crowd, who would not let him go. Then the members of the Medjliss went down to try and persuade the crowd to disperse. This they did, but returned saying that it was useless, and that the people had their flag and were all armed. At this moment the German Consul wrote a letter to his brother calling on him to have the girl sent to the konak. Having seen that a previous letter or telegram had been seized from the messenger and torn, I put Mr. Abbott's letter in the coat-sleeve of a zaptieh ordering him to take it to his brother's (Mr. Abbott's) house. While waiting for an answer the German Consul was explaining to the Medjliss that the girl was at the American Consulate, but as the Consul was absent at Vodina, immediately he returned she would be given up. The crowd became furious, and with loud cries broke through.

I swore at them. A Bey of the Medjliss (Hassan-Bey) told me not to use such expressions as it excited the mob all the more. The crowd came up; tore off the bars

from the windows and began to get into the room with the bars in their hands. One of the fellows tried to strike the Pasha, but the Hapouz-Meimouri prevented him.

Note.—I have not in my possession the rest of this deposition, but Dr. Tichendorf, the Dragoman of the German Consulate at Constantinople, can furnish copies, as indeed of all the depositions, which he has carefully written down *verbatim*.

I should also add that the above deposition of the ex-chief of police does not agree in many important points with the evidence he subsequently gave, and with the deposition of the ex-Governor-General.

Deposition of Ahmed Effendi, Mulazim (Lieutenant) of Police.

When I went to the Mosque with the Alai-Bey (ex-Chief of Police) and a Tchaoush of Souvari, Sheriff, at about 6 o'clock on Saturday, we got up the stairs and went to the room of Kotoub Effendi, where the Medjliss was assembled. The Alai-Bey told me to remain at the door, and not let any one in.

The Bey went in; the numbers of the Medjliss there were Mufti Ibram Bey, Emin Effendi, Mehmed Pasha, Osman Bey. I do not remember others. Afterwards the Yuz-bashi Husni Effendi came with the Consuls (I don't know what took place before they came). Afterwards Husni Effendi went away, and then the Pasha called the Alai Bey to the konak. He came back, and shortly after the Pasha came. Next, the Consuls wrote a letter. I did not see them write it, but I saw the letter; it was in the hands of Alai-Bey, and he, with Husni Effendi, went with it. They waited there in the Mosque about three-quarters of an hours. The crowd became impatient; cried and vociferated. Among them I recognized a Bouzji, Bosniak Ibrahim, and Tcherkiss Yaver. I don't know his name (of Bouzji); he was trying to come up the steps, but I prevented him, as well as Bosniak Ibrahim and Tcherkiss Yaver. The Bouzji got over the roof into the divan haneh (gallery). He was the first to get in. Katoub Effendi's servant, Hafouz, was also there. The Bouzji broke the windows and began calling the crowd to follow him. Yuz-bashi Ali Agha and I tried to prevent the people, but they rushed up and overpowered us; first in the crowd was Tcherkiss Yaver. Ali Agha and I protected the door; some zaptieh's were in the crowd trying to assist us, and there was a regular scuffle in the gallery. Bouzji tore off the bars of the window, and held them in his hands. Ibrahim Zadek, Husni Effendi also got a bar, as well as others, and got into the room. Ali Agha and I and some police went in. The crowd got on the sofas, some with bars, some with sticks, and others with knives. I, the Alai-Bey, and Ali Agha, tried to prevent them from doing harm, but it was not possible; the people began beating the Consuls with chairs; the Pasha was also there. The Consuls were behind us, and the crowd struck at them over our heads and shoulders; the Pasha was crying to them not to strike, and we also were trying to prevent them. Ali Agha embraced one of the Consuls, trying to protect him; the Pasha and the Alai-Bey, the other Consul, but the crowd were constantly beating them (the Consuls). The Bimbashi, with some zaptiehs, came up, trying to disperse the crowd. The first who struck the Consul whom I and Ali Agha were protecting was Ibrahim Zadek, Husni Effendi, with an iron bar. There was also an Ozownboylu Delikanli (a tall young man), I forget his name, but I think it is Tatar Suleiman, who was striking. The Consul fell down, and Ali Agha, with his hands on his belly, also fell down, crying with pain. We wanted water to give to the Consuls, but none could be got. I then saw the other Consul lying on the floor in the divan. The Pasha and Alai-Bey were also calling out for water; the bodies, although lifeless, were still being struck by the rabble. I then left, leaving the bodies lying opposite to each other. I went to get ammunition for the police.

Answers to questions put to deponent by the Commissioners and Delegates:—

1. All the Medjliss were in the room at the Mosque—Mufti Ibram Bey, Emin Effendi Mehmed Pasha, Osman Bey, the Hakim Effendi. I don't remember the others.

2. I don't know why they were in the room. The place outside was crowded. The people said that the Mahomedans had unfurled the flag, and that the Medjliss had met about the girl who had been violently taken away. We—the Alai Bey, I, and the Tchaoush—went there, and heard that they were waiting till the girl was surrendered.

3. If the Pasha went there of his own accord, or was called by the Medjliss, I cannot say; I don't know.

4. The Consuls went there, I think, after the Vali.

5. They came to the Mosque with Husni Effendi.

6. There was no one else with them.

7. I don't know why the Consuls went to the Mosque.
8. The Pasha was in the Mosque when the Consuls wrote the letters.
9. The Alai-Bey and officers had only their swords.
10. The reason why I went to the Mosque is because I saw a crowd assembling there, and I had heard that the Mahomedans were being called to arms, and that an Arab was holding the flag.
11. When the rabble began pulling off the iron bars from the windows, all the members of the Medjliss went away.
12. I swear no one tried to intimidate me or suborn me not to give my evidence.
13. Some one did strike the Pasha with a chair.
14. I had my sword, but I received no order to use it in defence of the Consuls. (This question was put by Consul Blunt.)

Deposition of Ali Agha, Yuz-Bashi (Captain) of Salonica Police.

When I went to the Mosque it was full. They had possession of the divan haneh. I saw two zaptiehs trying to prevent the crowd getting up the stairs. Among the first of those who wanted to get up was Komarji Bosniak, who appeared to guide the rest. I went up to the zaptiehs, and tried to push the crowd back, but Bosniak, with others, threw me down. I then got on a tomb-stone, and Dramali Tcherkess helped me to get up into the divan haneh, where I saw the Alai Bey scuffling with about twenty feilows, The Pasha and Medjliss were in the room walking about.

I told the Alai Bey to get in the room, with the intention to try and force the fellows away.

The Alai Bey gave me no answer but looked at the Pasha, and did not shut the door. The crowd got into the room through the windows, the bars of which they had wrenched off. Ahmet Effendi being near the window, and a native of the place, he knows better than I the individuals who got through. The Pasha was calling for troops. I, the Alai Bey, and the Binbashi, got into the room and we saw the fellows striking the Consuls with chairs and iron bars. The Pasha was calling out, "don't strike! don't strike!"

Afterwards I did not see the Pasha nor the Medjliss; they had managed to get away. After the French Consul had been struck down, I saw him fall near the corner of the room.

The German Consul was wounded in the head and other parts of the body; he then fell on me for protection, and I tried to cover him with my body. I was seized by the testicles and pulled down by the crowd, and I fainted from pain. I know nothing else. When I recovered I was taken to the Zaptieh Barracks, and remained twenty-four hours there.

Question put to deponent by Imperial Commissioners:—

1. Those who first got into the room through the windows are Abdullah, Bey's servant, Djavid Arab.
2. Ibrahim Effendi's Zadé, Husni Effendi.
3. Komarji Bosniak.
4. An Albanian, a cook; I don't know his name.
5. An Arab, a tall man; I don't know his name.
6. A Langazali; I don't know his name.
7. A Dibrali in service of Egribosli Multezim, Mehmed Ahga, with broken teeth
8. Emin Tchaoush Langazali was in the room.
9. A young Delikanli, Ozownboylou; I don't know his name.

Inclosure 3 in No. 77.

Examination of Rushen, Arab, daughter of Abdullah, before the Imperial Commission of Inquiry, Salonica, May 17, 1292.

(Translation.)

Q. Where are you from?—*A.* From Karasouli.

Q. Who are you living with?—*A.* With no one, but in lodgings by myself.

Q. Was any one else living in your house?—*A.* I was alone.

Q. There is a Bulgarian who wants to become Mahomedan; did you come with her?—*A.* It is my custom to come to Salonica on St. George's day. On that day I was at the railway station. I took a ticket and got into the train. The girl got into the same carriage. I arrived here, and on getting out of the train the girl also got out.

Q. When you left Karasouli who recommended you the girl?—*A.* No one. There was a Hodja with her, but he is unknown to me.

Q. How do you know this man was a Hodja?—*A.* Because the girl told me in the train that she was going to become a Mahomedan with this Hodja.

Q. Did you not ask him who he was?—I did not.

Q. Before arriving at the places you stopped, did he come to your carriage and did he say anything?—*A.* I swear I did not see him.

Q. When you arrived at Salonica what took place?—*A.* I got out of the carriage; the girl got out and followed me; they began to beat me; then the police took me away.

Q. When you got into the train at Karasouli what did you pay?—*A.* I sold my fowls and paid 20 piastres.

Q. Being a poor woman did any one give you money there?—*A.* No, this did not take place.

Q. For how much did you sell your fowls?—*A.* I sold six fowls for 3 piastres each, which made 18 piastres. I borrowed 2 piastres from my neighbour; with this I took my ticket.

Q. Did you ever serve any Bey at Salonica?—*A.* No, Sir.

(Here the girl was brought in and confronted with the Arab woman.)

Q. Did you know this girl before?—*A.* I did not.

Q. Did you see her in the train?—*A.* Yes, I saw her in the train.

Q. Do you not belong to one and the same village with this girl?—*A.* She does not belong to my village.

Q. Were there any other Turkish women in your carriage?—*A.* No, there were none.

Q. Was the mother of this girl with her?—*A.* She was, but in another carriage.

Q. How did you know she was her mother?—*A.* I don't know.

Q. When you arrived at Salonica what did the girl's mother do?—*A.* When the girl got out of the train her mother got hold of her; a row took place. She was put in a carriage and taken away.

Q. Who was in the railway carriage besides yourself?—*A.* I arrived at the station of Karasouli; the girl with the Hodja were there; the train arrived. I and the girl got into it. I don't know where the Hodja went. I got into the train with the girl; the mother of the girl arrived from Gevgheli. She saw her daughter got into the train; she then came into our carriage; she spoke Greek, but as I don't understand it, I could not make out what she said. She only said: "Why do you want to become Mahomedan." The girl answered: "I want to become Mahomedan," and turned her head away, and nothing more was spoken.

Q. When you were waiting for the train at the station, you saw the girl and the Hodja, did he wear spectacles, and had he a turban on?—*A.* I saw him from behind; I did not see his spectacles but his turban.

Q. At the arrival of the train at Karasouli did you or the girl enter the train first?—*A.* The girl got in first, then I got in, after this her mother left her own carriage and got into ours.

Q. Is Gevgheli beyond Karasouli?—*A.* Yes, beyond.

(Here Emin Effendi, Member of the Council of the Vilayet, was confronted with the Arab woman, who declared she did not know him.)

Examination of the Bulgarian Girl "Stephana," who adopted Turkish name "Aiysheh."

Q. What is your name?—*A.* My name is Aiysheh; I have no other name; my father's name is Stello; he is dead; my mother's name is Matto.

Q. Have you any brothers or sisters?—*A.* I have two brothers.

Q. Where are you from?—*A.* From village of Bogdanza.

Q. At what hour did you get into the train?—*A.* I don't know.

Q. Where did you live in the village?—*A.* I was living in the house of the Hodja.

Q. How many years is it that you were living there?—*A.* Although I was living with my father, four years have elapsed since I became Mahomedan (inwardly, by inspiration). My father was a Christian (she said Ghaiour). Now, without having informed my mother, I went to the house of the Hodja, to whom I said: "I have become Mahomedan; I have come to you." From this I went to a place (Gevgheli), two hours distant, and alone. On the way, and before me, were walking two Mahomedans. I followed them with the intention of going to Gevgheli to take the train.

Q. Who gave you the money to pay for the train?—*A.* The Hodja of my village; he having bnsiness at Gevgheli went there before me. I met him there, and he gave me the money.

Q. At Gevgheli were there any other Turkish women?—*A.* There I met the Arab woman, and we got into the train together.

Q. When you were waiting for the train was the Arab woman there?—*A.* Yes; we were there together.

Q. When you got into the train did your mother come in?—*A.* Yes; my mother came from Gevgheli with the train. I discovered this when she left her carriage to come into ours. She then said did they give you this Arab woman as a companion. I gave her no answer. We arrived in Salonica. The train-guards opened the door of the carriage, and I got out with the Arab women, when a Frank with a beard took me by the hand, and said to me, "Have you become a Mahomedan?" He then insulted me. Next to this man was another Frank, who, with the other one, began to beat me and tear my yashmak. Then some policemen arrived.

Q. Were you to see the persons who tore your yashmak would you recognize them?—*A.* Yes, I would. One is a young man—beardless; he tore my "peredjeh." And another young Frank with a beard, and the other an old man with a beard; these took me from the hands of the police; the young one putting me in the carriage; and in the carriage was a woman about fifty years of age, with two girls of about eleven. They took me to the house of the Consul. These said to me, "How did you take a fancy to this religion of dogs?" the Franks telling me the same thing.

Q. Where did they put you in the Consulate?—*A.* In a room with my mother. My mother did not say anything to me. We slept there that night. In the morning at 4 o'clock (Turkish time, about 11·15) we had luncheon. After that a servant woman and a tall Frank with a hat and beard took me to another house. In this house were two men and two women. They took me upstairs; and, as they neither knew Turkish or Bulgarian, they did not say anything to me. We took coffee, and then they took me out in the street. Three policemen took me and brought me to the konak.

Q. You arrived in Salonica by rail; they put you in a carriage and took you to the Consulate; the next day how long did you remain after luncheon?—*A.* I remained about two hours. They took me towards 6 o'clock to the other house. There I remained about an hour, when, as I said before, policemen took me to the konak.

Q. You said that you were a Mahomedan for the last four years. Did you ever go to the mosque?—I did not.

Q. Why did you come to Salonica?—*A.* Because I wanted to become a Mahomedan; this is the reason.

Q. Who told you to come to Salonica?—*A.* No one told me.

Q. When the Hodja saw you in Gevgheli did he ask you why you were going to Salonica?—*A.* He did not ask me.

Q. Do you know Mayadagh, and did you sleep there a night?—*A.* I do not know Mayadagh, and did not sleep there.

Q. How old are you?—*A.* I am fifteen.

Note by Consul Blunt.—(Here Consul Blunt suggested to the Commissioners that, in order to form a correct opinion about the girl's age, she should be required to remove her yashmak. Vahan Effendi observed that he did not think that it would be sanctioned, and Consul Blunt rejoined that it may be done in a Court of Justice, especially if the convert had not made her formal operation as by law required, and suggested that the opinion of the Mollah, or Chief Judge, who was present at the inquiry, should be asked. The latter immediately replied that under the circumstances the yashmak could be removed. The German Delegate, Mond Gillett, thereupon remarked to Consul Blunt that he (Consul Blunt) was not justified in making such a suggestion to the Commission; that the latter had nothing whatever to do with the girl's age; and that it was a matter which should be inquired into by the local Courts. A discussion ensued, but, as the Commissioners and Delegates appeared satisfied that the girl was between sixteen and seventeen years of age, Consul Blunt did not press the subject.)

Girl's examination continued.

Q. When you were coming to Salonica did you see a man of the name of Emin Effendi?—*A.* I did not.

Q. When you arrived in Salonica, and went to the Consulate, did they take you to a place like a church?—*A.* They did not take me to a church, but they brought a priest,

and then we had luncheon; and when they were looking for me they took me to the lower story of the house.

Q. In what part of the train was your mother?—*A.* She was in another carriage; and when she saw us she came to us.

Q. Speak the truth; did you enter the train at Gevgheli or Karasouli?—*A.* I took the train at Gevgheli. My mother got into another carriage. We arrived at Karasouli. There the Arab woman got in the train. Then my mother saw me at Karasouli, and got into our carriage.

Q. Did you speak with the Arab woman?—*A.* I did not.

Confrontation of the Girl with the Arab Woman.

(*To the Arab woman*).—When you got into the train did you recognize this girl, and where did she enter the train?—*A.* I entered the train at Karasouli, and this girl got in with me. On the way she said, "I am going to be a Mahommedan, and there is a Hodja with me."

(*To the girl.*)—*Q.* You have heard the words of the Arab woman who travelled with you?—*A.* Sir, my mother entered the train at Gevgheli. I and the Arab, we took the train at Karasouli. My mother was in another carriage, and when she saw me she came to our carriage.

(Emin Effendi was here shown to the girl, when she declared that she had seen him.)

Q. Where did you see Emin Effendi?—*A.* At Karasouli, when he was waiting for the train.

Q Did you come to Karasouli on foot?—Yes, on foot.

Q. Did you know Emin Effendi before?—*A.* Yes; he used to come five or six times a year to our village. I used to see him; that is how I know him.

Q. When Emin Effendi came to your village used he to sleep there?—*A.* Yes; he used to be a guest of the Mahommedans.

Q. How many houses are there in your village?—*A.* It is a large village.

Q. Did he ever speak to you in the village?—*A.* No; never.

Q. You are from Bogdanza; is it far by land from Karasouli?—*A.* From Bogdanza to Karasouli there are six hours.

Q. Did you come six hours on foot?—*A.* Yes; I came on foot. I arrived at Karasouli at about 1 o'clock. First went to Gevgheli. There was no train, and some women, on account of there being no train, left by land for Karasouli, and I went with them, and the Hodja arrived in Gevgheli. He left for Mayadagh.

Emin Effendi questioned.

Q Did you get in the train on St. George's Day?—*A.* I, in company of Mustapha Bey, Taifour Agha, and the Cadi of Uscup, got into the train altogether.

Q. Do you know the village of Bogdanza?—*A.* I do not. I never heard of the name. And when we arrived at Salonica, I never heard that the girl's yashmak had been torn off, nor that there had been a row.

Examination of Matto (Maria), the Girl's Mother.

Q. Did you know this tall man, with spectacles, in your village?—*A.* No, I do not.

Q. Did you see him in the train?—*A.* No, I did not see him nor know him.

Q. How did your daughter run away from the village and become a Mahommedan?—*A.* In the day time, I went to fetch mulberry leaves. They came from the village and ran away with her. I was not present.

Q. Who took her away from the village?—*A.* Ak-Baba, Hussein, Djelal, Feizoulah, Ibraim Yazyi, Suleiman Tchaoush, Omer Agha, and the son of Halil Ismail. I heard they took her away.

Q. Where did they take the girl to?—*A.* First they took her to a wood, and then to the house of Suleiman Tchaoush.

Q. Did men run away with her?—*A.* Yes, men took her away.

Q. How many years is it your husband is dead?—*A.* About seven or eight years.

Q. When were you married?—*A.* I don't know how many years since.

Q. Are there any Turkish houses near your house (in the village)?—*A.* There are, opposite to ours, and not far.

Q. How old is your daughter?—*A.* She is fourteen.

Q. Have you any other children?—*A.* I have two sons.

Q. Are these boys older than your daughter?—*A.* One is older and the other is younger.

Q. When your husband died, how old was your daughter?—*A.* She was five or six years old.

Q. What is your name?—*A.* My name is Maria.

Q. What is the name of your daughter?—*A.* Stefani.

Q. What day did they run away with your daughter?—*A.* On Wednesday, at about nine.

Q. When they ran away with her, where did they take her to?—*A.* By force into the house of Suleiman Tchaoush.

Q. That night, where did she sleep?—*A.* In Suleiman Tchaoush's house.

Q. Where did she go to afterwards?—*A.* They took the girl with men's clothes on (they put arms in her belt) to a wood on the other side of Berdashta (Sheard).

Q. From Berdashta, where did they go to?—*A.* From Berdashta to Gevgheli, and from there by Mayadagh and Karasinan to Karasouli. I don't know where she slept. I found her in Karasouli.

Q. Did they take your daughter's clothes?—*A.* A woman from our village took them.

Q. What is her name?—*A.* The wife of Hussein.

Q. Did they only take her clothes, or your's as well?—*A.* My daughter is poor, so they took my clothes.

Q. When they took the clothes, were you present?—*A.* I was not.

Q. How long since is it that your daughter is courting with a certain Mustapha?—*A.* I don't know.

Q. Did your daughter ever frequent Turkish women?—*A.* No, she used not. She never told me of it.

Q. Your daughter knows Turkish very well, where did she learn it?—*A.* At the fountain where she used to go for water with Suleiman's children.

Q. Before this affair, did ever any children (Christian) become Mohommedan by force?—*A.* No, never.

Q. In your village there are Turks and Christians; how do they get on there?—*A.* We get on very well.

Q. When you went to Salonica, was your daughter with you?—*A.* Yes, we were in the same carriage, and besides us, there was an Arab woman.

Q. When the train stopped, who first got out?—*A.* The Arab woman, then my daughter, and then I.

Q. In the carriage, did you speak to your daughter?—*A.* Yes, I did.

Q. What did you speak about?—*A.* She said, "They run away with me."

Q. Did she say that they ran away with her by force?—*A.* Yes, she said they took her by force.

Q. When you got out of the train at Salonica, who cried out for help?—*A.* When we descended into the station, my daughter seized hold of me and cried for help.

Q. Who came for help?—*A.* I am a stranger, and don't know who they were.

Q. Who pulled her yashmak off?—*A.* My daughter herself.

Q. When the train arrived at Salonica, did you recognize this tall man, with spectacles and turban?—*A.* I did not see him. My daughter told me he was from the Grand Council.

Q. Did your daughter tell you that this man would take her?—*A.* Yes. I saw this man with spectacles, but he did not do anything.

NOTE.—The inquiry into the forcible seizure of the girl by the Greeks will be made by the Local Turkish Courts.

Inclosure 4 in No. 77.

Evidence taken at the Village of Bogdantza.

(Traduction.)

APRES avoir prêté serment l'exposé de Delhio, fils de Stenhil, Mouchtar du Village:—

Q. Vous avez, sans doute, entendu l'événement de Salonique?—*R.* Oui, je l'ai entendu.

Q. La fille qui a causé cet événement comment s'appelle-t-elle?—*R.* Elle s'appelle Stephana, son père Delhio, et sa mère Maria.

Q. Son père vit-il?—*R.* Il est mort, et j'ignore si sa mère est au village.

Q. Depuis quand son père est-il mort ?—*R.* Il y a environ deux ou trois ans que son père est mort.

Q. La fille chez qui demeurait-elle au village ?—*R.* Elle demeurait chez elle avec sa mère.

Q. Qui fréquentait-elle parmi les Musulmans ?—*R.* Etant encore enfant je ne sais pas qui elle fréquentait.

Q. N'as-tu pas entendu en parler de personne ?—*R.* Je n'en ai pas entendu.

Q. Quand est-elle partie de ce village ?—*R.* Un ou deux jours avant la fête de St. Elie ; je crois que sa fuite a eu lieu Mercredi.

Q. Sais-tu avec qui et pourquoi elle s'est enfuite ?—*R.* Comme j'avais affaire ce jour-là à quelque place au delà du quartier de cette fille je n'ai pas vu ce qui s'était passé, mais pendant que j'allais j'ai vu que la mère se battait avec plusieurs femmes Musulmanes, et se plaignit en me disant qu'on lui avait enlevé la fille et qu'elle a entendu que c'était pendant qu'elle la envoyée puiser de l'eau de la fontaine. Elle demanda mon secours ; je lui répondis que je ne pouvais pas aller auprès des dames Ottomanes, mais je lui ai conseillé de porter plainte au Conak. Ensuite je suivis ma route, et n'ayant pas vu la fille j'ignore comment elle s'est enfuite.

Q. Quelles femmes l'a-t-on battue ?—*R.* Selon le dire de la mère ce sont les femmes de Suleiman Tschaouss, Molla Feizoullah, et Ismail Aga.

Q. As-tu vu ces femmes battre la mère de la fille ?—*R.* Oui ; je les ai vues quand elles la poussaient.

Q. Nous avons entendu que cette fille veut se marier avec un jeune Turc, est-ce vrai ?—*R.* Je ne le sais pas.

Q. Elle dit que depuis quatre ans, sans se faire connaître, elle est Musulmane, et que même elle avait pris quelques leçons dans une école Musulmane, sais-tu si cela est vrai ?—*R.* Je n'en sais rien.

Q. Connais-tu un certain Emin Effendi qui porte un turban, et en est membre du Conseil d'Administration du Vilayet ?—*R.* Je ne le connais pas.

Q. As-tu vu cet Effendi avant ou au jour de la fête de St. Elie ?—*R.* Ne l'ayant pas vu personnellement je ne le connais pas.

Q. As-tu entendu des autres qu'un pareil individu est arrivé ici ?—*R.* Je ne l'ai pas entendu.

Q. Connais-tu un individu qui s'appelle Emin Effendi, Vekil du Tschiplik de Madjicoova ?—*R.* Je ne le connais pas.

Q. La mère est-elle allée se plaindre au Conak quand tu lui avais dit ?—*R.* Oui ; elle est allée dire à Tchaouss Aga. Celui-ci a fait réunir les Agas Musulmans à la mosquée, leur demanda s'ils avaient connaissance de ce fait, ils répondirent que non. Ceci je l'ai simplement entendu.

Q. De qui l'as-tu entendu ?—*R.* Je l'ai entendu dire par Achmed Tchaouss et par Molla Feizi.

(Sa Signature.)

Après avoir fait prêter le serment l'exposé de Nicola Dimitri, Codjabaschi du Village :—

Q. Comment est-ce que l'événement de Salonique a eu lieu et dont tu as sans doute entendu parler ?—*R.* Je l'ai entendu.

Q. Comment l'as-tu entendu ?—*R.* Quelques jours avant la fête de St. Elie, c'était un Mercredi, à huit heures, j'étais en ma boutique quand Nicola Gneurki, l'oncle maternel de la fille Stephana, fille de Delhio Ghiota, me raconta que Stephana a été envoyée par la mère à la fontaine, d'où les femmes de Hussein Aga et son fils Ismaïl, l'ayant enlevée l'emenèrent chez Feizoullah Aga. Ayant appris ce fait je portai ma main sur la poitrine et gardai la silence.

Q. Après qu'est-il arrivé et qu'en as-tu entendu ?—*R.* Je n'ai rien appris après ce fait seulement qu'elle partit pour Salonique par chemin-de-fer.

Q. La père de cette fille vit-il ?—*R.* Il y a environ six ans qu'il est mort.

Q. Où demeurait-elle ?—*R.* Chez elle avec sa mère Maria.

Q. Qui fréquentait-elle parmi les Musulmans ?—*R.* Elle ne fréquentait personne parmi les Musulmans.

Q. Pourquoi s'est-elle enfuite ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas ; je n'ai rien appris.

Q. N'as-tu entendu dire qu'elle est allée se marier avec un jeune Musulman ?—*R.* Je ne l'ai pas entendu.

Q. Est-ce vrai qu'elle est depuis quatre ans Musulmane et qu'elle a étudié dans une école Musulmane ?—*R.* Je n'en sais pas.

Q. Connais-tu une personne qui s'appelle Emin Effendi, ex-Ketib de Mechkemé et actuellement membre du Medjliss ?—*R.* Je ne le connais pas.

Q. Si nous t'en fesons une description peut-être tu le reconnaîtras, car il vient ici de temps en temps ?—*R.* Faites si je le reconnaîtrai je vous le dirai.

Q. C'est un homme de haute taille, avec un turban, une barbe claire, et qui porte des lunettes ?—*R.* Je ne le reconnais pas, je ne l'ai pas vu.

Q. As-tu vu dans le village un pareil individu le jour de la fête de St. Elie, ou bien un ou deux jours auparavant ?—*R.* Je ne l'ai pas vu.

Q. On dit qu'il est le Vekil du Tschiplik de Madjicora, est-il vrai ?—*R.* Je n'en sais pas, ni connais Emin Effendi, mais j'ai entendu dire que c'est nommé Mehemed Effendi qui en est le Vekil.

Q. Sais-tu comment et qui a emmené la fille à Guirguili ?—*R.* Je ne le sais pas.

Q. N'as-tu pas entendu parler ?— *R.* J'ai entendu dire qu'elle était partie à Guirguili de la maison d'un homme appelé Mehemed Aga, habitant de ce village.

Q. Comment est-elle partie qui l'a emmenée ?—*R.* J'ai entendu qu'elle était partie pour Guirguili de la maison de Méhémed Aga.

Q. De qui l'as-tu entendu ?—*R.* Je l'ai entendu depuis des enfants de sept ans jusqu'aux vieillards de soixante-dix ans, des habitants de notre village.

Q. Cite-nous quelqu'un parmi eux ?—*R.* Moi, je ne les ai pas vu par mes propres yeux.

Q. Dis comment ce fait s'est passé ?—*R.* La fille était chez Méhémed Aga ; de là le hodja du village et le Sekban (gardien) l'ont prise Vrendredi matin et l'ont amenée sur une monture à Guirghili, cependant je ne sais pas qui l'a fait monter en chemin de fer.

Q. D'où sais-tu qu'on l'a emmenée à Guirghili ?—*R.* Où l'ameneront ? on l'a emmenée à Guirghili.

Q. Qui est ce Méhémed Aga ?—*R.* On l'appelle Mehemed Aga Cadriga ; il est d'origine de Sères.

Q. Y a-t-il d'autres personnes qui l'ont vu emmenée ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas si d'autres l'ont vu ou non.

Q. De quoi s'occupe-t-il ici ce Mehemed Aga ?—*R.* Il est Vekil d'un certain Agnah Bey.

(Sa Signature.)

Après avoir prêté serment l'exposé de Toco, fils de Christo, un des Mouchtars :—

Q. Une fille qui s'est enfuite d'ici à Salonique comment s'appelle-t-elle ?—*R.* Elle s'appelle Stephana, son père Delhio, sa mère Maria ; son père est mort.

Q. Où demeurait-elle ? quel âge a-t-elle ?—*R.* Dans le cercle des immeubles d'Agnah Bey chez sa mère.

Q. Y a-t-il d'autres personnes qui demeurent avec eux ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas si elle a des frères ; je sais seulement qu'il y a un des aînés à Salonique.

Q. Que fait-il à Salonique ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas s'il est domestique chez quelqu'un.

Q. Quand s'est-elle enfuite d'ici ?—*R.* On dit qu'elle s'est enfuite au jour de St. Elie ; comme j'étais alors absent je ne sais si elle est allée de sa propre volonté, ou si elle était emmenée.

Q. As-tu entendu comment elle était allée?—*R.* J'ai entendu dans les rues.

Q. Comment l'as-tu appris ?—*R.* J'ai appris que Vendredi à 8 heures quelques femmes Musulmanes l'ont prise et amenée chez un Turc.

Q. Où l'ont-elles emmenée ?—*R.* Voilà ce que j'ai appris : on l'a emmenée chez un certain Hussein, fils de Ismail Aga ; on l'a fermée chez lui.

Q. Quelles sont ces femmes qui l'ont emmenée ?—*R.* Je n'en sais pas.

Q. Fréquentait-elle les maisons Musulmanes ?—*R.* Peut-être, mais je ne peux pas la voir car j'habite loin d'elle.

Q. A-t-elle servi chez quelque Musulman ?—*R.* Non; je n'ai point entendu.

Q. Vous autres vous ne la voyez pas à l'église ?—*R.* Quand même je l'aurai vu, je ne la reconnaîtrai pas, parcequ'elle n'est pas de mon quartier.

Q. Si tu la verrai à présent, ne la reconnaîtrai-tu pas ?—*R.* Non, je ne la reconnaîtrai pas.

Q. As-tu connu un homme qui s'appelle Emin Effendi, membre du Conseil d'Administration à Salonique ?—*R.* Peut-être je le connais ?

Q. C'est un homme de haute taille, avec un turban et qui porte des lunettes ?—*R.* Je ne le connais pas.

Q. Est-ce vrai de ce qu'on nous a averti que cet Effendi vient de temps en temps ici, et qu'il se trouvait ici le jour de la fuite de la fille ?—*R.* Je ne l'ai pas vu.

Q. On dit qu'il est venu ici chez un certain Mehemed Aga de Serres, ne l'as-tu pas vu ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas, je ne l'ai pas vu.

Q. As-tu entendu qu'un pareil hôte fréquentait ici ?—*R.* Non ; je ne l'ai pas entendu.

Q. Quelle espèce d'homme est-ce Mehemed Aga ?—*R.* C'est un brave homme, cependant il ne nous laisse pas faire de bois, il enferme nos bestiaux et fait quelquefois de choses injustes.

Q. Ne portez vous pas plainte contre lui chez le Gouverneur ?—*R.* Plusieurs fois nous avons porté plainte soit à Salonique soit au Caïmacamat, mais tant eux que nous, nous sommes ennuyés des démarches sans résultats.

Q. Comment as-tu appris que cette fille a été emmenée chez Mehemed Aga ?—*R.* C'est dans les rues que l'on dit qu'elle était chez Mehemed Aga, ou chez Hussein d'Ismail Aga, ou chez Suleiman Tchaouss, ou chez Ibraim Yatzatzi. Comme on n'entre pas chez les Musulmans on ne peut pas savoir positivement où elle était.

Q. De qui l'as-tu appris ?—*R.* Des villageois.

Q. N'as-tu pas entendu dire des personnes qui doivent l'avoir vue quand on l'a emmenée ?—*R.* J'ai entendu de Delhio et Colo que vous avez interrogés avant moi, et qui étaient alors absents. Je n'en sais rien.

Q. Cet Emin Effendi de qui je vous demande on dit qu'il est Vekil du Ciflik Madgicova ne l'as-tu jamais vu ? ni entendu parler de lui ?—*R.* Jamais je ne l'ai vu ni entendu parler de lui.

Q. Vient-il de Salonique chez les Agas d'ici comme hôte ? Mussafir ?—*R.* Chaque année ou chaque un an et demi ou deux ans, viennent ici de temps en temps Agnah Bey et Ibrahim Bey.

Q. Qui sont ces Agnah Bey et Ibrahim Bey et où habitent-ils ?—*R.* Ils habitent Constantinople et s'habillent à la Franque.

Q. Qui est leur Vekil ici ?—*R.* Leur Vekil est Mufti Bey à Salonique.

Q. Qui est ce Mufti Bey ?—*R.* C'est ex-Mufti Ibrahim Bey.

Q. Ce Mufti Bey, Ibrahim Bey, quand est-ce qu'il vient ici ?—*R.* Il y a deux ans qu'il n'est pas venu.

Q. Allay Bey est-il arrivé ici de Salonique, et cela recemment ?—*R.* L'année passée pendant qu'on travaillait aux routes.

Q. Sais-tu comment cette fille est allée à Guirguili ?—*R.* Je n'ai pas entendu dire qu'elle est allée à Guirguili.

(Sa Signature).

Interrogation de Tragio, Fils de Mitre, Membre de Conseil des Vieillards.

Après avoir prêté serment il expose :—

Q. Comment s'appelle-t-elle la fille qui était enlevée d'ici emmenée à Salonique et à qui était-elle ?—*R.* Elle s'appelle Stephana, son père s'appelait Delhio, il est mort ; quant à sa mère je ne connais pas son nom, elle vit encore.

Q. Cette fille quand s'est-elle enfuite d'ici ?—*R.* Depuis longtemps, ça doit être avant le jour de la fête de St. Elie. Je n'ai pas vu celui qui la enlevée car j'étais alors absent, mais à mon arrivée j'ai appris qu'elle s'était enfuite.

Q. Qui sont ceux qui l'ont enlevée ?—*R.* Selon ce qu'on me dit elle était allée chercher de l'eau et c'est là que les femmes Musulmanes l'enlevèrent. C'est de toi de moi que je l'ai appris.

Q. Comment l'ont-elles enlevée ?—*R.* Ne l'ayant pas vu je n'en sais rien, cependant j'ai entendu dire qu'il y avait beaucoup de femmes Musulmanes et que ce sont elles qui l'ont enlevée.

Q. Qui sont-elles ces femmes Musulmanes ?—*R.* Je n'ai pas entendu dire de qu'elles étaient femmes, j'ai seulement, entendu qu'elles habitaient le même quartier.

Q. Que sais-tu de cette fille ?—*R.* Elle est âgée de 10 à 12 ans.

Q. Fréquentait-elle les Musulmanes ? ou leurs harems ?—*R.* Je n'en sais rien.

Q. Les femmes Musulmanes où l'ont-elle emmenée ?—*R.* Elles l'ont emmenée ou chez Molla Teizi, ou chez Suleiman Tschaouss, c'est ainsi que la parole a été repandue.

Q. De qui l'as-tu entendu dire ?—*R.* Je l'ai entendu de Codgia-Bachis du village. C'est à mon retour que l'on m'a raconté en disant qu'ayant cherché, et ne trouvant pas la fille, ils s'adressèrent à cet individu et que la mère était allée chez le Tschaouss pour la réclamer et un moment après nous entendîmes que la fille était partie pour Salonique.

Q. Pour quelle affaire est-elle allée à Salonique ?—*R.* Je l'ai dit tout-à-l'heure qu'on l'a enlevée de la fontaine et on l'a emmenée.

Q. Qui sont ceux qui l'ont emmenée à Salonique?—*R.* Je ne sais pas, tout ce que j'ai entendu dire est que le hodja Musulman était aussi parti pour Salonique.

Q. Y a-t-il quelques-uns des vendjouks ou des Beys de Salonique qui viennent ici?—*R.* Il y a un Ibrahim Bey et un jeune Bey qui viennent.

Q. Le jeune Bey comment s'appelle-t-il?—*R.* Le jeune je crois qu'il s'appelle Agnah Bey. Il est habillé d'habit et de pantalon.

Q. Celui que tu nommes Ibrahim Bey, comment s'habille-t-il, et quel âge a-t-il?—*R.* Il porte un turban, et est habillé d'Anterri, et a la barbe blanche.

Q. Ces deux hommes quand sont-ils venus ici?—*R.* Ils étaient venus l'année passée, mais pas cette année-ci.

Q. Emin Effendi, qui est de haute taille avec une barbe blanche, et qui porte des lunettes, à quelle époque vient-il ici?—*R.* Je ne sais pas, et je ne l'ai pas vu.

Q. Veux-tu dire qu'il est arrivée, mais que tu ne l'as pas vu?—*R.* Je ne l'ai pas vu, ni connu.

Q. N'as-tu pas vu cet homme que nous te citons, qui porte un turban et des lunettes au jour de la fête de St. Elie?—*R.* Je ne l'ai pas vu.

Q. N'as-tu pas entendu qu'un pareil homme venait ici?—*R.* Non; je ne l'ai pas entendu.

(Sa Signature.)

L'Exposé de Papa Torghion Effendi, Prêtre du Village.

Q. Tu viens d'entendre l'interrogation qui vient d'être enregistrée; eh bien, expose tout ce que tu sais sur ce fait?—*R.* J'ai entendu dire que la fille était allée chercher de l'eau à la fontaine, et c'est de là que des femmes Musulmanes l'ont enlevée. Cependant si on me la ferait voir à présent je ne la connaîtrai pas, car je ne suis pas le prêtre de son quartier.

Q. Pourquoi l'ont-elle amenée et qui sont ces femmes qui l'ont enlevée?—*R.* Je ne sais pas, Monsieur.

Q. Connais-tu Emin Effendi de qui nous venons de demander?—*R.* Non, je ne le connais pas.

Q. Tu as déjà entendu la description qui a été faite de sa personne, n'as-tu jamais vu ou entendu d'un pareil individu qui arrivait au village?—*R.* Je ne l'ai pas entendu.

Q. N'as-tu pas vu cet homme arriver ici quelques jours avant la fête de St. Elie ou même auparavant?—*R.* Je ne l'ai pas vu.

(Sa Signature.)

Interrogation d'Osman, Mutevelli et un des Habitants du Village.

Q. Dis nous tout ce que tu sais sur la fuite de la fille à Salonique?—*R.* Je crois que c'est avant la fête de St. Elie, un Mercredi, que je suis allé aux jardins quand le soir à mon retour que j'appris que la fille de Delhio s'est enfuite.

Q. Où s'était-elle enfuite?—*R.* Chez Ismail Aga.

Q. Comment s'est-elle enfuite, et qui l'a fait enfuir?—*R.* Je ne sais pas comment elle s'est enfuite, ni qui l'a fait enfuir.

Q. Fréquentait-elle la maison d'Ismail Aga?—*R.* Je ne l'ai pas entendu ni j'en sais rien.

Q. Connais-tu personnellement cette fille?—Je ne la connais pas.

Q. Il y a un certain Emin Effendi actuellement membre du Conseil d'Administration à Salonique, connais-tu cet Effendi?—*R.* Je ne le connais pas; je ne l'ai pas vu venir ici.

Q. Comment cette fille est-elle allée d'ici à Guirguili?—*R.* Vendredi matin, quand je suis allé à la mosquée, n'ayant pas vu le hodja, j'en ai demandé à l'assemblée de Vendredi, on m'a dit qu'il a emmené la fille à Salonique.

Q. Qui sont de l'assemblée qui te l'ont dit?—*R.* C'est d'Ahmed Soubachi et du Mouchtar que je l'ai entendu dire.

(Sa Signature.)

L'Exposé de Feizoullah Aga, un des Membres du Conseil des Vieillards du Village.

Q. Expose tout ce que tu sais sur la fille Bulgare qui s'est enfuite d'ici ?—*R.* Ce jour là, c'est-à-dire Mercredi, deux jours avant la fête de St. Elie, je fus à Babayau. Le soir à $1\frac{1}{2}$ quand j'étais de retour, j'ai appris que la fille était allée chez Ismail Aga, disant à sa femme qu'elle voulait se faire Musulmane. La femme répondit que " mon mari étant absent je ne me mêle pas de pareilles choses." Après cela l'Imam l'a prise, l'emmena à Salonique, voilà ce que j'ai entendu par la voix publique.

Q. Qui te l'a dit ?—*R.* Je l'ai appris par la voix publique, je ne me rappelle pas de qui je l'ai entendu.

Q. Puisque la femme d'Ismail Aga n'a pas accepté la fille, admettons le, et supposons que cela rapproche la vérité selon son exposé, pourtant on nous a informé que c'est ta femme avec d'autres qui ont battu la fille et l'ont enlevé ; est-ce ainsi ?—*R.* Je n'ai rien appris ; je ne sais pas.

Q. Cette fille quand est-elle allée à Guirguili ?—*R.* J'ai entendu que c'était Mercredi d'abord chez Ismail, ensuite le hodja l'a prise et l'emmena Vendredi à Guirguili.

Q. Qui fréquentait-elle parmi les jeunes gens Musulmans ?—*R.* Quoique j'en sois Soubaschi je n'en sais pas.

Q. De la part de qui est-tu nommé Soubaschi ?—*R.* De la part d'Agnah Bey.

Q. Qui est sous-Vekil ?—*R.* C'est Ibrahim Bey, l'ex-Mufti.

Q. De quel manière Imam Effendi a-t-il emmené cette fille à Salonique ?—*R.* Elle s'était faite Musulmane et l'a emmené, mais je ne sais comment.

Q. Tu dis que cette fille était aliée chez Ismail Aga et on l'a réfusée ; as-tu vu et demandé cela à Ismail Aga ?—*R.* Non, je ne l'ai pas demandé.

Q. L'Imam, avant d'emmener cette fille à Salonique, t'en a-t-il demandé à toi ou à d'autres primats du village vos opinions sur ce fait ?—*R.* Non, il n'a rien dit sur cela.

Q. Sais-tu s'il en a demandé aux autres ?—*R.* Je ne le sais pas.

Q. Tu dis d'avoir entendu Mercredi soir qu'elle s'était faite Musulmane, l'en as-tu entendu avant cette époque ?—*R.* Non, je ne l'ai pas entendu.

Q. Il y a une personne à Salonique, membre du Conseil d'Administration, avec une barbe claire, une taille haute, et qui porte des lunettes, ex-Kiatib de Mahkiemé, appelé Emin Effendi, connais-tu cette personne ?—*R.* Je l'ai entendu dire comme Kiatib de Mahkemé, mais je ne le connais pas personnellement.

Q. Tu ne l'aie jamais vu ?—Je ne l'ai vu jamais.

Q. Que diras-tu s'il te connaît ?—*R.* S'il me connaît, moi je ne le connais pas.

Q. On dit que cet Effendi vient de temps en temps ici ; est-ce vrai ?—Je ne le sais pas ; c'est-à-dire, l'arrivée d'Emin Effendi je ne l'ai pas vu ni entendu.

Q. Cette fille allait-elle à l'école Musulmane ?—*R.* Non, je ne sais pas si elle y allait.

Q. Très-bien, on dit qu'on a emmené cette fille chez toi, qu'en dis-tu ?—*R.* Non ; elle n'y est jamais été et elle n'y est jamais venue.

Q. Tu dis d'avoir entendu parler d'Emin Effendi, à quel propos en as-tu entendu ?—*R.* Comme Vekil de Chehimé Khâsun, femme de Fellah Effendi, 1er Gouverneur des moraies, c'est à ce propos que j'ai entendu parler de lui.

Q. Cette Chehima possède-t-elle des propriétés ici ?—*R.* Elle possède le Tschiphlik de Madjicova.

Q. Très-bien, puisqu'Emin Effendi est le Vekil du Tschiphlik de Madjicova sans doute il y serait venu, l'as-tu vu ?—*R.* Non ; jamais je ne l'ai vu.

(Sa Signature.)

Exposé de Hussein, Fils d'Ismail, Habitant du dit Village.

Q. Dis tout ce que tu connais concernant la fille Bulgare qui s'est enfuite d'ici et comment ça s'opéra-t-il ?—*R.* A cette époque là j'étais absent d'ici, je me trouvais à Sères ; depuis ces dix jours que je suis de retour, j'ai entendu ce fait à la maison.

Q. Comment l'as-tu entendu ?—*R.* J'ai entendu que la fille s'était enfuite.

Q. Comment l'as-tu entendu ?—*R.* Que la fille était venu chez moi disant qu'elle s'était faite Musulmane. Là-dessus on la renvoyée de chez nous en disant que : mon mari n'est pas à la maison. Après elle est allée chez l'Imam et lui l'ayant prise l'emmena à Salonique. Ceci m'a été raconté par mon harem.

Q. La fille quand s'est-elle présentée chez toi ?—*R.* Elle était venue dire qu'elle s'était enfuite, mais je ne sais pas quel jour.

Q. Est-ce qu'elle fréquentait chez toi auparavant ?—*R.* Elle n'y venait pas.

Q. Chez qui allait-elle ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas.

Q. Qu'elle personne parmi les Musulmans fréquentait-elle ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas.

Q. On dit qu'elle était allée à la fontaine pour puiser de l'eau et que sa femme avec d'autres l'ont enlevée par force, qu'en dis-tu ?—*R.* Que non, je n'en sais rien et comme j'ai déjà dit qu'elle était allée chez l'Imam après être renvoyée de chez moi et puis elle partit pour Salonique.

Q. On dit aussi que sa femme avec d'autres, après avoir battu la mère, emmenèrent la fille, que dis-tu là-dessus ?—*R.* Je n'en sais rien.

Q. Si on prouve que ça eu lieu ?—*R.* Je n'en sais rien, que voulez-vous que je sache de ce que ma femme a fait.

Q. Tu connais sans doute Emin Effendi, membre du Conseil de Salonique, ex-Katib de Mahkemé ; on dit que cet Effendi venait ici de temps en temps ?—*R.* Non ; je ne sais pas ni connu Emin Effendi.

Q. Ou qu'Emin Effendi est le Vekil du Tschiphlik de Madjicova est-ce vrai ?—*R.* Je n'en sais rien.

Q. Si Emin Effendi te connaissait qu'en diras-tu ?—*R.* Que je ne le connais pas et quand même qu'il m'aurait vu je ne l'ai pas vu.

(Sa Signature.)

L'Exposé de Ismaïl, Fils d'Ibrahim, second Mouchtar du dit Village.

Q. Qu'elles sont les informations sur la fille Bulgare qui est partie pour Salonique ? —*R.* Le Mercredi avant le jour de la fête de St. Elie, j'ai été à Valendova et quand je suis rentré chez moi à 1 heure de soir j'ai appris que la fille était allée chez Ismail, fils de Hussein. Le lendemain Jeudi je suis allé couper des feuilles et à mon retour j'ai appris que le hodja l'emmena d'abord à Guirguili et ensuite à Salonique. Voila tout ce que j'ai entendu.

Q. Ta femme de qui l'a-t-elle appris ?—*R.* Comme ce fait a eu lieu pendant la journée tous les enfants même l'ont entendu et vu.

Q. C'était-elle arrêtée le soir à Guirguili ?—*R.* Je ne veux pas mentir, je ne sais si elle s'est arrêtée à Guirguili ou bien continué sa route.

Q. Le jour que la fille était allée chez Ismail lui était-il chez lui ?—*R.* Non ; puisqu'il était parti pour Sères avant le jour de la fête de St. Ellie il y a peu de temps qu'il est de retour. Quant à l'époque de son retour je ne saurai pas vous la dire précisément, car il est employé chez Méhémed Aga, Directeur du Tschiphlik de Madjicova pour de cocons. C'est lui qui pourra vous dire précisément à quelle époque son domestique était de retour.

Q. Qui est ce Méhémed Aga ?—*R.* Comme le Tschiphlik appartient à Agnab Bey, Ibrahim Bey est son Vekil et Méhémed Aga, son Directeur (Nazir).

Q. La fille a-t-elle étudié dans une école Musulmane ?—*R.* Je ne sais pas.

Q. Voyait-elle des gens Musulmans et chez qui fréquentait-elle ?—*R.* Je ne le sais pas.

Q. Depuis quand n'es-tu pas allé à Salonique ?—*R.* Depuis l'époque des dîmes de l'avant dernière année et dès lors je ne suis pas allé.

Q. Tu connais sans doute Emin Effendi l'ex-Katib de Mahkemé actuellement membre de Medjliss, une taille haute, avec une barbe claire et qui porte des lunettes, ne le connais-tu pas ?—*R.* Non ; je ne le connais pas.

Q. Cet Emin Effendi vient de temps en temps au Tschiphlik de Madjicova et ici à quelle époque vient-il ? l'as-tu vu ?—*R.* Non ; je ne l'ai pas vu, je ne le sais pas.

Q. Selon l'exposé de la mère et d'autres la fille était allée chercher de l'eau à la fontaine d'où ta femme avec d'autres l'ont enlevée, qu'en dis-tu de cela ?—*R.* Non ; je ne le sais pas.

Q. Ne l'as-tu pas entendu de les enfants ?—*R.* Non ; je ne l'ai pas entendu.

(Sa Signature.)

L'Exposé d'Ahmed, Fils d'Ali, premier Mouchtar du dit Village.

Q. Cite en toute vérité tout ce que tu sais de la fille Bulgare qui s'est enfuite à Salonique ?—*R.* J'ai entendu qu'elle est allée Mercredi précédant le jour de la fête de St. Elie chez Ismail, fils de Hussein, et que celui-ci n'étant pas chez lui, elle dit à sa femme qu'elle voulait se faire Musulmane. Vers le soir j'ai rencontré la femme d'Ismail près de la Mosquée, qui m'a raconté comment la chose s'est passée et me demanda ce

qu'elle devait faire d'elle; je répondis puisqu'elle s'est faite Musulmane, il fallait l'envoyer à l'Imam comme c'est une affaire qui concerne le Gouvernement et que lui l'emmène à l'autorité. Voilà ce que je connais concernant cette affaire.

Q. Cette femme, l'a-t-elle consignée à l'Imam?—*R.* Je ne le sais pas.

Q. Après cela de qui as-tu entendu de son départ?—*R.* Je suis un homme occupé de mes affaires. Je ne connais pas le départ de la fille.

Q. Tu n'as pas appris après cela que l'Imam avait emmené la fille?—*R.* Oui. Quand je n'ai pas vu l'Imam à la Mosquée, j'ai appris qu'il était allé emmener la fille.

Q. Où l'a-t-il emmenée par hasard?—*R.* L'Imam est d'origine d'Altschak Mahallé, près de Guirguili. Je ne sais pas s'il l'emmena chez lui ou à Guirguili.

Q. Si tu verrais la fille la reconnaîtras-tu?—*R.* Non, je ne la connais pas.

Q. Où est la maison et la famille de l'Imam?—*R.* Sa maison et sa famille sont à Altschak Mahallé. Il y va de temps en temps avec la permission de nos habitants qu'on lui accorde parfois.

Q. Quand as-tu dit à la femme d'Ismaïl de consigner la fille à l'Imam?—C'était vers le soir; je ne sais pourtant si elle l'a consignée le lendemain matin.

Q. Nous avons appris que cette fille était envoyée par sa mère pour chercher de l'eau à la fontaine d'où ta femme, avec d'autres, après avoir battu la mère, ont enlevé la fille; est-ce vrai?—*R.* C'est impossible, puisqu'elle doit être menée à l'autorité. C'est une affaire qui concerne l'autorité.

Q. Il y a une personne qui était auparavant Katib de Mehkemé, et actuellement membre de Medjliss, et qui porte un turban, est de haute taille, a une barbe claire, et porte des lunettes. Il s'appelle Emin Effendi. Il vient ici de temps en temps. Quand l'as-tu vu?—*R.* Moi, je n'ai pas vu un tel homme.

Q. Ibrahim, à quelle époque est-il venu ici?—*R.* Je me rappelle qu'il était ici une fois et ceci l'année passée.

(Sa Signature.)

L'Exposé d'Atanach, Fils de Tholi, un des Habitants du dit Village.

Q. Nous attendons de toi de nous dire l'affaire concernant la fuite de la fille Bulgare?—*R.* Mercredi précédant le jour de la fête de St. Elie je faisais des tuiles, à 8 heures environ je suis allé au jardin pour porter des feuilles, et plus tard à mon retour j'ai appris qu'on a enlevé la fille, cependant je ne sais qui l'a enlevée.

Q. Quand tu es allé au jardin 8 heures environ, ta fille où était-elle?—*R.* Pendant que je faisais des tuiles elle était avec moi; quand je suis allé au jardin elle s'en alla chez elle, et plus tard à mon retour j'ai appris qu'elle a été enlevée.

Q. De qui l'as-tu appris?—*R.* Je l'ai appris dans la rue des enfants, cependant je ne sais pas comment et par qui elle a été enlevée.

Q. Sais-tu si elle voyait quelqu'un?—*R.* Je ne sais si elle voyait personne, et je ne connais aucune méchanceté.

Q. Ne sais-tu pas comment elle était enlevée et emmenée?—*R.* Je ne le sais pas.

Q. Quel âge a-t-alle?—*R.* Douze à treize ans.

Q. Connais-tu Emin Effendi, ex-Katib de Mahkemé, actuellement membre du Medjliss à Salonique?—*R.* Je ne le connais pas. Je ne l'ai pas vu.

Q. Où a-t-on emmené la fille ce jour là?—*R.* Je ne sais pas; je suis allé au jardin, et je suis retourné 1½ à 2 heures après le fait, et j'ai dit tout ce que j'ai entendu.

Q. Qu'en sais-tu d'autres?—*R.* Je ne sais rien d'autres.

(Sa Signature.)

L'Exposé de Mehemed, Fils d'Ismaïl.

Q. Connais-tu la fuite de la fille Bulgare? Raconte-nous comment ce fait s'est passé?—*R.* Je ne sais rien d'autre que c'est qu'elle s'est faite Musulmane.

Q. Où est le hodja de ton village?—*R.* Je ne sais pas.

Q. Tu ne sais pas qui est le hodja?—*R.* Non, je n'ai même jamais vu sa figure.

Q. Ne connais-tu pas un hodja qui est d'origine de Doiran?—*R.* Nous avions un hodja d'origine de Doiran, mais on l'a congédié au Courban Bairam, et comme ça je ne connais pas d'autre hodja.

Q. Comment cette fille est-elle allée à Salonique?—*R.* Je ne sais pas.

Q. Où est la lettre que le hodja de ton village a envoyée de Salonique?—*R.* Je n'ai aucune connaissance ni de la lettre ni de hodja.

Q. Si le hodja viendrait te dire qu'il te l'avait envoyée que dirais-tu alors?—*R.* Je ne sais pas. Je ne suis occupé que de mes malheurs aux montagnes.

Q. Toi et tes camarades, vous avez formé un Medjliss pour lui envoyer de l'argent à Salonique. Comment cette affaire s'est-elle passée?—*R.* Je n'ai aucune connaissance de pareil Medjliss.

Q. Quand tu seras confronté avec ces hommes, tes camarades, qu'en diras-tu alors?—*R.* Je n'ai aucune connaissance d'une pareille chose.

(Sa Signature.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 77.

Plan of the Governor's House, and of the Mosque in which the French and German Consuls were murdered.

No. 78.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 4, 1876.

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 14th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Mr. Blunt, in which he recommends the meritorious conduct of the Consular cavass on the occasion of the murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica, I have to state that I should be willing to consider whether application could be made to the Treasury for the grant of a gratuity to Hussein Agha in recognition of his services, but I should be glad before doing so to have your opinion as to what sum you would think reasonable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received July 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, July* 14, 1876, 5·30 P.M.

THE following sentences have been passed on the officers implicated in the Salonica affair:—The Chief of the Police is condemned to degradation and fifteen years' hard labour; the Commander of the frigate, degradation and ten years' imprisonment in fortress; and the Commander of the citadel, to three years in a fortress. Our Dragoman considers the sentences proper. The French and German Ambassadors express themselves satisfied. The Governor-General has still to be tried.

CORRESPONDENCE respecting the Murder of the French and German Consuls at Salonica.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. 1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

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TURKEY. No. 1 (1876).

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

VARIOUS OTTOMAN LOANS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.
[C.—1424.] *Price* 1*s.* 1*d.*

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Correspondence respecting the various Ottoman Loans.

No. 1.

Mr. Franklin to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received September* 5.)

My Lord, *London Institution, Finsbury Circus, September* 7, 1875.

UNDER date of 29th June,* Lord Tenterden did me the honour to acknowledge receipt of the Memorandum transmitted by me on 26th of same month, wherein were indicated points in which a so-called Convention between the Ottoman Government and its own bankers violate essential conditions of the original contract for this Loan. Among the papers then on the table of Parliament was not included one dated 27th of the preceding April, wherein the Bank had pretended to justify its action in the matter. Since then currency has been given to that paper, and your Lordship's justice is relied upon promptly to afford like currency to the following refutation of the Bank's injurious misrepresentations.

The Bank pretends that:—

"In 1873 the Imperial Ottoman Bank concluded arrangements with the contractors of the Loan respecting its future service."

This makes no disclosure of who were they that in capacity of "contractors" arrogated to themselves the power to surrender rights and securities which are the very essence of the original contract, set forth in bonds long ago passed out of their hands.

Suppose among the first contractors had been managers of the Bank itself, who, to avoid identification, had commissioned themselves, *i.e.*, the Bank in its corporate capacity, to act as "agents of the contractors" for disposal of the bonds at a notable advance upon the true contract price. Suppose also that the same financiers have afterwards, from time to time, involved the Porte in onerous pecuniary obligations, and contrived to fund them by new creations of bonds. And suppose, moreover, those same financiers get themselves constituted Receivers-General of all Revenues, including those expressly assigned for service of the 1862 Loan, with opportunity to intercept and divert those assignments to the service of later Loans in hotch-pot, or, for preferential satisfaction of their own claims in any other shape. Then on what pretext could they, their agents or allies, affect to represant *bonâ fide* holders of the 1862 bonds, whether as contractors, attorneys, or in any other capacity?

Be it remembered, that a sufficient protest against all and every such pretence of agreement to the so-called Convention or arrangement, was, at its inception, served upon all concerned, as well as transmitted by your Lordship's own agency to Constantinople. Moreover, and on supposition that the so-called Convention could supersede the original contract, is it not confessed by the Bank's latest statement, now under review, that not even a bare announcement of monthly entries to credit of the 1862 Loan can be issued unless and until the Ottoman Finance Minister of the day shall have signified his approval! Consequently, nothing can be secure until control over the bondholders' dues has passed out of reach of the Government, of its bankers, and of the creditors of either, into the safe custody of approved receivers.

I crave your Lordship's excuse for my inability to avoid reference to the critical position in which the 1862 bonds have been placed by Earl Russell's recent appeal (not authoritatively deprecated) for aid to Ottoman subjects whose aim is to disintegrate the Ottoman Empire. As frequently shown, this particular Loan was

* See Papers presented to Parliament, "Turkey No. 6 (1875)," page 6.

recommended to British capitalists by the Government of Lord Palmerston, for support of British interests in the integrity of that Empire. The signature of Earl Russell, then at the Foreign Office, was virtually endorsed upon the prospectus which, as represented, had been settled with approval of Mr. Layard (Under-Secretary). And Ministers of the Crown, in their places in Parliament, advocated the investments in manner to educe premonitory notice of the rights of recourse which, in certain contingencies, naturally arise.

That Her Majesty's Representatives have since then withheld that earnest support of the bondholders' rights, which might have accomplished its ends, is indisputable. The degradation in value of the 1862 bonds now witnessed is the obvious consequence. The 5,000,000*l.* sterling of the Loan which remained to be paid off within eleven years should, at the rate of emission, be now worth circa 4,000,000*l.*, *i.e.*, 80*l.* per 100*l.* bond, whereas the market quotation of value is less than 3,000,000*l.*, *i.e.*, 60*l.* per 100*l.* bond—a price rebated at 18 per cent. per annum.

None will presume to contest the right of Great Britain to reverse its traditional policy in Eastern affairs, at instance of Her Majesty's responsible advisers, and by sufferance of Parliament, but British subjects, whose money had been advanced for maintenance of that policy, at instance of their own Government, are reduced by a reversal of it to the position of those whose private property is expropriated for public service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. FRANKLIN.

No. 2.

Mr. Lister to Mr. Franklin.

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1875.

IN acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to refer you to Lord Tenterden's letter of the 29th of June last, stating that his Lordship cannot interfere further in support of the bondholders of the Ottoman Loans of 1858 and 1862.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 3.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received September 17.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 7, 1875.

IT has long been seen that the day could not be very far distant when this country would find itself unable to pay the interest on its public debt; but I have been surprised to find how rapidly the impression has gained ground that some measure of repudiation has become inevitable, and that the sooner it is resorted to, the less will be the evil of it.

I know this opinion to be held by many of the best financial authorities here; but it is only gradually that it is being adopted by the Turks, who must be allowed the credit of having showed their anxiety to fulfil their engagements as long as it was within their power to do so; but when dividend after dividend has to be provided for by money borrowed at an ever-increasing rate of interest, it is evident what the end must be.

If the Government succeed in getting from the banks the advance that is required, the coupon due upon the 1st of October will be paid; but there is, I think, a great probability that, before the next dividend becomes due, some great resolution will have been taken in regard to the debt; and I have reason to believe that the present Grand Vizier, although he has never intimated anything of the kind to me, has made up his mind to deal with it.

The measure which seems the most probable is the summary reduction of the interest upon the debt from 5 to 3 per cent.; and I have heard it keenly argued by persons far from indifferent to the interests of the bondholders that it is what would be most to their ultimate advantage.

It is maintained that, after such reduction, the bondholders would still receive 6 or 7 per cent. for their money, instead of 10 or 11 per cent. as at present; and that they would be in a

safer position by the greater prospect of avoiding a complete bankruptcy, since the saving to the Porte would be sufficient to establish an equilibrium between the revenue and expenditure; but any security which this could afford must be set off against the uncertainty that when such a simple mode of escaping from financial difficulties had once been tried, it might not be again repeated, if a similar necessity were to occur.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 4.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1875.*

THE inclosed extract from the "Levant Herald" contains, I believe, a correct statement of the arrangement made by the Porte for the payment of the October dividend upon the Public Debt.

The dividend due in January is considerably heavier, and it is uncertain what course the Government may pursue in regard to it, for, while it is certain that it cannot be provided for out of the revenue, it is becoming clear that their power of borrowing is very nearly exhausted, and those who hold Government paper are becoming more and more anxious lest, by persisting in these ruinous advances or loans, the country may be brought to a state of total bankruptcy; and they would now willingly accept an arrangement involving a partial repudiation, if it could be accompanied by a satisfactory guarantee for the security of the rest.

That some measures of the kind will very soon be proposed, is, I think, inevitable, but where the security is to be found against a future resort to a second repudiation it is not easy to say.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Extract from the "Levant Herald."

PAYMENTS OF THE OCTOBER COUPONS.—The advance to the Treasury for the payment of the October coupons amounts to 1,500,000*l.* sterling. It is repayable in four monthly instalments, commencing in October and ending in January. The interest is at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, with ½ per cent. commission per month, amounting to 18 per cent. per annum. The repayment is secured upon the revenue collected by the Imperial Ottoman Bank on account of the Foreign loans and General Debt. Of this advance, the local banks take one half, or 750,000*l.*, while the Imperial Ottoman Bank, with its group, takes the remainder. The two previous advances falling due in October, and amounting to about 1,300,000*l.*, will probably be renewed for three months, at the same rate of interest, with security of the Five per Cent. stock in the hands of the Bank (representing the option of the last loan), calculated at 30*l.* per 100*l.* stock.

The negotiations for the advance of the 1,500,000*l.* are definitely concluded, and the Bank will, in all probability, sign the contract in the course of to-day. The negotiations with regard to the other advances are not in quite such a forward stage. There is also another advance, falling due in October, of 1,800,000*l.*, which will be renewed by the Syndicate of the 1873 Loan.

Galata, Saturday, noon.

Yesterday afternoon Five per Cents. fluctuated in price in Galata between 40⅛ and 40, the latter being the closing quotation. The telegraph this morning shows a falling off yesterday in the London and Paris prices, and the Khan is very flat in consequence. Five per Cents. opened this morning at 39 28.40, and the mid-day quotation is 39 33.40, with but little business doing. The same heaviness prevails in all other values, and even Roumelian Railway bonds are neglected at 118½ to 119.

No. 5.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(Extract.) *Therapia, September* 30, 1875.

IN reporting to your Lordship, a few days ago, that the Porte had succeeded in obtaining a loan for the payment of the October dividend, I added, that the financial difficulties had reached a point which rendered a measure of repudiation, in some shape, inevitable.

The Grand Vizier appears already to have made up his mind upon the subject, and desired Mr. Sandison to communicate his views to me.

Although convinced of the necessity of the step which he proposes, the Grand Vizier is greatly disturbed by the apprehension of the effect which it may produce in England; and, in communicating his intention to me, his wish was, that in submitting it to the Sultan, he might be able to tell His Majesty that I was not unfavourable to it; and that there was no danger of Her Majesty's Government formally protesting against it.

I could not consent to assume any such responsibility.

It is undoubtedly my own opinion that the interests of the bondholders may be better secured by a reduction in the rate of interest, if solid guarantee, such as those promised by the Grand Vizier, can be obtained, than by an attempt to continue a hopeless struggle to provide means for paying the whole interest by loans which only involve the country further; but I could not take upon myself to say that I approved of a measure of which the immediate effect would be the loss of several millions a-year to the British bondholders.

I desired Mr. Sandison to remind the Grand Vizier that Her Majesty's Government could not forget that the present embarrassments would not have occurred if attention had been paid to the continual warnings which they had given to the Porte, that unless it took measures to improve the financial administration of the country, by an improved mode in the collection of the revenue, by a study of economy, and the development of the natural resources of the Empire, the ruin which has now come upon it, could not long be deferred.

These warnings had been neglected, and it could not be expected that Her Majesty's Government would be indifferent to the injury thereby done to many British subjects.

A repudiation would not fail to produce indignation on the part of the sufferers; but the manner in which it was regarded would be greatly influenced by the measures which he might propose for guaranteeing them from further loss.

No. 6.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 18.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 2, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Grand Vizier has sent to inform me that the Sultan has sanctioned his proposal for the reduction by one-half of the interest on the Turkish National Debt.

Sufficient revenues for the punctual and permanent payment of the reduced rate of interest are to be placed in the hands of a European syndicate, and the Grand Vizier hopes that it will be believed that nothing but the conviction of the inability of the Porte to continue to meet its obligations in full could have overcome his reluctance to resort to this measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 7.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 9, 1875, 3 P.M.

THE following explanatory notice about the reduction of the rate of interest has been issued :—

" A dater de ce jour (6 Octobre, 1875), et pendant une période de cinq ans, la moitié des intérêts et de l'amortissement des dettes intérieures et extérieures, dont le service annuel monte à environ quatorze millions, est et demeure supprimée.

" En dédommagement du non paiement de ces sept millions de livres, il sera payée une somme calculée à raison de 5 pour cent, somme dont la quotité sera de 350,000 livres par an. Les titres provisoires qui seront délivrés pour cet objet auront cours pendant cinq ans seulement, et serviront de garantie au paiement, pour chacune des cinq années, de la dite somme exclusivement de 350,000 livres."

(Translation.)

Constantinople, October 7, 1875.

FROM this day's date, that is to say, from the 6th October, 1875, and during a period of five years, the half of the interest and sinking fund of the internal and foreign debts, of which the annual amount comes to about 14,000,000*l.*, is and remains suppressed. As compensation for the non-payment of these 7,000,000*l.*, a sum shall be paid calculated at a rate of 5 per cent., of which sum the quota shall be 350,000*l.* yearly.

The provisional bonds, which shall be delivered for this object, shall hold good during five years only, and will be the security for the payment during each of these five years of the said sum exclusively of 350,000*l.*

No. 8.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 10, 1875, 4 P.M.

THE following further official explanation has been issued respecting the reduction of the interest.

It differs very materially from the last:—

" 1. A dater de ce jour les intérêts et l'amortissement des dettes intérieures et extérieures de l'Empire Ottoman sont reduits à moitié pour un terme de cinq ans.

" 2. Le paiement de ces coupons se fera de la manière suivante: la première moitié en espèces intégralement, et la seconde moitié en nouveaux titres portant cinq pour cent d'intérêts payables également en espèces, simultanément avec les échéances de la première moitié.

" 3. Les garanties affectées, tant au paiement intégral en espèces de la première moitié qu'au paiement du dit cinq pour cent d'intérêts, consistent en les revenus totaux des douanes, en ceux du tabac et du sel, ainsi qu'au tribut de l'Egypte, et en cas d'insuffisance il y sera parfait sur la taxe des moutons.

" 4. Si à l'expiration des dites cinq années, la susdite seconde moitié du coupon transformée en un capital portant cinq pour cent d'intérêts n'était pas remboursée, il y aura une nouvelle prolongation de délai jusqu'à la parfaite extinction du plus prochain emprunt extérieur, dont les garanties se trouvant dès lors dégagées, serviront au remboursement intégral du dit cinq pour cent, intérêts et amortissement compris."

(Translation.)

1. From this day's date the interest and sinking fund of the internal and external debts of the Ottoman Empire are reduced to one half during a term of five years.

2. The payment of these coupons will be made in the following manner: the first half in cash integrally, and the second half in new bonds bearing 5 per cent. interest, payable likewise in cash, at the same time that the payment of the first half becomes due.

3. The securities assigned, as well for the entire payment in cash of the first half, as for the payment of the said 5 per cent. interest, consist in the total revenues of the customs, in those of tobacco and salt, as well as the tribute of Egypt, and in case of insufficiency, it will be completed from the tax on sheep.

4. If at the expiration of the said five years the above-mentioned second half of the coupon, transformed into capital bearing 5 per cent. interest, should not be reimbursed, there will be a fresh extension of delay till the total extinction of the first foreign loan to be redeemed, the securities of which being then freed will serve for the integral repayment of the 5 per cent., including interest and sinking fund.

No. 9.

Mr. Corfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

My Lord, 31, *Porchester Square, W., October* 9, 1875.

REFERRING to the letters which I have had the honour to address to your Lordship during the last sixteen months on the subject of Turkish finance, and laid before Parliament, I beg leave respectfully to point out that the period has now arrived when diplomatic interference can no longer be delayed by England and the other Powers, whose subjects, it would appear from an official notification, are to be defrauded to the extent of nearly 80,000,000*l.* by the Porte. Your Lordship will remember that not long before the Ottoman Bank was made "Receiver-General of all the Revenues," it was proposed that the Porte should allow the appointment of an International Commission to manage the finances of Turkey, this was evaded, and an Iradé was issued, giving full powers to the Ottoman Bank, and upon the faith of this arrangement the Porte, in September, 1874, was able to issue a 5 per cent. stock of 40,000,000*l.* at 43½ per cent., and 7,000,000*l.* of this sum was left in the hands of the Bank. Shortly afterwards the Bank allowed the Iradé to be treated as a dead letter by the Porte, and kept the fact from the knowledge of the world. This has now been proved by the Decree just issued, by which "Special Treasuries are to be appointed for the collection of the revenues specially hypothecated to the different loans, but without, however, thereby prejudicing the rights resulting from the concessions made to the Imperial Ottoman Bank."

It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that any new arrangement that is entered into by the Porte should be with an International Commission, invested with a diplomatic character. The functions of such a Commission will be very simple, as after having received the revenues they will have to administer them according to the principles and practice of Courts of Equity; or, in other words, to pay the bondholders according to their priorities. No convention with a Joint Stock Company will meet the purpose, as it would not have sufficient power to maintain the stipulations of the convention, and justice to the bondholders can now only be done by an International Commission, in the formation of which England, France, Austria, and Italy should take the lead. Your Lordship will remember the words of Mr. Bruce, the Chairman of the Ottoman Bank, when speaking on Mr. Yorke's motion—"That most of the administrative difficulties in Turkey arose from the absence of that influence formerly exercised by the English Government."

On the part of the bondholders of the 1858 and 1862 Loans, holding upwards of 1,000,000*l.*, and of the bondholders generally, I respectfully request that your Lordship will advise your colleagues no longer to delay exercising the influence possessed by England, and as a preliminary step that your Lordship will be pleased to forward a copy of this letter to Sir Henry Elliot, with such instructions as your Lordship may think proper and expedient under such an unprecedented catastrophe.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. K. CORFIELD.

No. 10.

Mr. Hyde Clarke to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

My Lord, 10, *Moorgate Street, London, October* 9, 1875.

THE receipt in London of telegrams announcing ambiguous measures with regard to the Public Debt of Turkey have been received with deep concern by the holders of the 1862 Loan.

Already many of their influential constituents have called upon the Joint Commissions for the Ottoman Loans of 1858 and 1862 to execute the functions devolving upon them, in pursuance of the Convention of 4th February, 1873, entered into between the Ottoman Government and the bondholders.

This Loan was raised under exceptional stipulations, under which the Ottoman Government have voluntarily and publicly acknowledged the right of the bondholders, in case of any infringement, to enter on the receipt of the revenues pledged for its fulfilment, and to put the Syndicate in operation.

The rights acquired by the holders of the 1862 Loan, under the Convention, the Joint Commissions are instructed to maintain, and I have the honour to request that your

Lordship will instruct Her Majesty's Minister at Constantinople to do what he can, unofficiallly, in the interests of the holders of that Loan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HYDE CLARKE, *Secretary.*

No. 11.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 9 Octobre,* 1875.

CONFORMEMENT aux instructions de mon Gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence les copies ci-jointes d'une Déclaration publiée par la Sublime Porte en date du 6 de ce mois relativement à la réduction des intérêts et de l'amortissement des dettes intérieures et extérieures de l'Empire, et d'une note explicative de cette réduction, et datée du 7 du même mois.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, October 9,* 1875.

IN accordance with the instructions of my Government I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency the accompanying copies of a declaration published by the Sublime Porte, dated the 6th of this month, respecting the reduction of the interest and sinking fund of the internal and foreign debts of the Empire, and of a note explanatory of this reduction, and dated the 7th of the same month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Official Notification respecting the Reduction of Interest.

Constantinople, le 6 Octobre, 1875.

TOUT le monde a pris connaissance du déficit du budget des recettes et des dépenses de l'Empire Ottoman publié dans la présente année, déficit qui a dépassé le chiffre de cinq millions de livres; bien plus, on ne saurait se dissimuler que le même déficit dépasserait encore ce chiffre, si on le soumettait à un nouvel examen. En présence de cette situation, l'habitude d'avoir recours à un emprunt avec la Banque pour le payement à temps du coupon des emprunts, et de contracter ainsi une dette pour en rembourser une autre, a abouti à rien moins qu'à grossir de jour en jour le déficit, aussi bien qu'à ébranler à la fin la confiance des actionnaires. Le systeme qu'on a ainsi suivi, et la confiance disparue, sont parvenus à un degré tel qu'il se trouve être amplement constaté par l'état de la Bourse et le cours des fonds, ainsi que par les pertes que les détenteurs de nos obligations éprouvent du chef de leur capital aujourd'hui. Tant que la Sublime Porte n'aura pas assuré des garanties réelles et solides pour cet objet, il est évident que les propriétaires desdites obligations finiront par tout perdre. Le Gouvernement Impérial déclare de nouveau en toute sincérité que, dans ses intentions loyales et généreuses, il ne saurait en aucun temps tolérer les graves préjudices occasionnés aux capitalistes et aux détenteurs dont les capitaux profitent à l'Empire.

Quant à la question des garanties, la Sublime Porte déclare, sous la condition de sauvegarder les droits et les priviléges de la Banque, tenir à la disposition des Syndicats qui pourraient être désignés, les revenus généraux des douanes, ceux du sel et des tabacs, ainsi que le tribut de l'Egypte, et en cas d'insuffisance, les produits de la taxe sur les moutons: la sécurité qui résultera de l'affectation immédiate de garanties aussi sérieuses devant écarter la méfiance publique. En conséquence, le Gouvernement Impérial, en vue de ramener la confiance par le parfait équilibre du budget, et se proposant de payer, jusqu'à cinq années révolues, les intérêts, moitié en espèces et moitié en obligations seulement portant cinq pour cent d'intérêt, après avoir enfin mûrement délibéré sur la nécessité impérieuse de réduire à moitié le coupon, déclare officiellement qu'il a décidé de payer, à partir de ce jour, la moitié seulement de l'équivalent en espèces de chaque coupon.

(Translation.)

Constantinople, October 6, 1875.

EVERY one is acquainted with the deficit in the Budget of receipts and expenditure of the Ottoman Empire, published in the current year, a deficit which amounts to more than 5,000,000*l.*; more than this, one cannot conceal the fact that the said deficit would even exceed this amount if it were submitted to a fresh investigation. In this position of affairs, the custom of having recourse to a loan with the Bank for the payment at the proper moment of the coupons of the loans, and of thus contracting a debt to repay another, has only resulted in constantly swelling the deficit, and has ended by shaking the confidence of the bondholders. The system thus followed, and the loss of confidence, have reached a pitch which is amply evidenced by the condition of the money market, and the price of the funds, as well as by the loss of the principal portion of their capital experienced at the present time by the holders of our bonds.

So long as the Sublime Porte does not insure real and substantial securities for this object, it is clear that the holders of these said bonds will in the end lose all.

The Imperial Government declares again in all sincerity that, with its loyal and generous intentions, it would never tolerate the heavy losses entailed on the capitalists and holders of bonds, by whose capital the Empire profits.

With reference to the question of the securities, the Sublime Porte engages, upon condition of protecting the rights and privileges of the Bank, to hold at the disposition of those Syndicates who may be chosen, the general revenues of the customs, those of salt and tobacco, as well as the Egyptian tribute, and, in case of insufficiency, the proceeds of the tax on sheep; and the security resulting from the immediate assignment of such important guarantees should remove the public distrust. Consequently, the Imperial Government, with the view of restoring confidence by the perfect balance of the budget, and intending to pay interest for a period of five years, half in money and half in bonds only, bearing 5 per cent. interest, after having deliberated carefully on the imperative necessity of reducing the coupon by one-half, declares officially that it has decided to pay, from to-day's date, the half only of the equivalent in money of each coupon.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Official Note explanatory of that of the 6th October.

Constantinople, le 7 Octobre, 1875.

A DATER de ce jour, c'est à dire du 6 Octobre, 1875, et pendant une période de cinq ans, la moitié des intérêts et de l'amortissement des dettes intérieures et extérieures, dont le service annuel monte à environ quatorze millions de livres, est et demeure supprimée. En dédommagement du non payement de ces sept millions de livres, il sera payé une somme calculée à raison de cinq pour cent, somme dont la quotité sera de 350,000 livres par an. Les titres provisoires, qui seront délivrés pour cet objet, auront cours pendant cinq ans seulement, et serviront de garantie au payement, pour chacune de ces cinq années, de ladite somme exclusivement de 350,000 livres.

[For Translation, see page 5.]

No. 12.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 12.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 11 *Octobre,* 1875.

CONFORMEMENT aux instructions de mon Gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une Déclaration officielle publiée par la Sublime Porte le 10 de ce mois, et contenant des explications catégoriques définitives sur la Déclaration précédente, relativement à la réduction des intérêts, et de l'amortissement des dettes intérieures et extérieures de l'Empire.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, October* 11, 1875.

IN accordance with the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to communicate to your Excelleney the accompanying copy of an official declaration published by the Sublime Porte on the 10th of this month, and containing categorical and definitive

explanations on the preceding declaration, respecting the reduction of the interest and sinking fund of the internal and foreign debts of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Official Declaration.

Constantinople, le 10 *Octobre,* 1875.

LA Déclaration de la Sublime Porte du 6 Octobre, 1875, avec la note explicative qui l'accompagnait, ayant été l'objet de diverses interprétations, tant à la Bourse que de la part de plusieurs capitalistes et maisons de banque, le Gouvernement Impérial, pour éviter à l'avenir toute équivoque, et en vue de donner, une fois pour toutes, des explications catégoriques définitives, déclare ce qui suit :—

1. A dater de ce jour, les intérêts et l'amortissement des dettes intérieures et extérieures de l'Empire sont réduits à moitié pour un terme de cinq ans.

2. Le payement de ces coupons se fera de la manière suivante : La première moitié intégralement en espèces, et la seconde moitié en nouveaux titres portant cinq pour cent d'intérêts payables également en espèces, simultanément avec les échéances de la première moitié.

3. Les garanties affectées tant au payement intégral en espèces de la première moitié, qu'au payement du dit cinq pour cent d'intérêts, consistent en les revenus totaux des douanes, en ceux du tabac et du sel, ainsi qu'au tribut d'Egypte ; et, en cas d'insuffisance, il y sera parfait sur les taxes des moutons.

4. Si, à l'expiration des dites cinq années, la susdite seconde moitié du coupon transformée en un capital portant cinq pour cent n'était pas remboursée, il y aura une nouvelle prolongation de délai, jusqu'à la parfaite extinction du plus prochain emprunt extérieur dont les garanties, se trouvant dès lors dégagées, serviront au remboursement intégral dudit cinq pour cent, intérêts et amortissement compris.

(Translation.)

Constantinople, October 10, 1875.

THE Declaration of the Sublime Porte of October 6, 1875, together with the explanatory note accompanying it, having been made the subject of different interpretations both on the Exchange and on the part of several capitalists and banking houses, the Imperial Government, to avoid all doubt for the future, and with a view of giving, once for all, categorical and definitive explanations, issues the following declaration :—

[See Translation of No. 8.]

No. 13.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 6, 1875.

AS the Grand Vizier had told the French Ambassador and myself of the resolution which had been come to of reducing the interest on the Public Debt of Turkey, it was with extreme surprise that we heard yesterday afternoon that His Highness had directed the Reuter Agency to deny on authority that any such intention was entertained.

We both felt that if we allowed this contradiction to pass unnoticed, we might be almost regarded as parties to an unjustifiable act of deception, and we agreed to call together on the Grand Vizier this morning to insist upon the matter being put right.

We consequently said to His Highness that we could not allow the British and French bondholders to be deceived in this way, and that means must at once be found of disavowing the communication of yesterday.

His Highness replied that the announcement of the Reuter's Agency had been made without his authorization.

It would however be unnecessary for him to take any notice of it, for its most complete contradiction would be the publication of the Imperial Iradé, which he expected every moment to receive from the palace, and which would be published in the course of the day.

My colleague and myself admitted that if this were done in the course of the day, it would be as effectual a refutation of the statement we complained of as could be given.

The Grand Vizier then went into some details of the measure as finally resolved upon, with which I will not trouble your Lordship, as the text of the Iradé will so shortly be in our hands.

His Highness having thanked us for the manner in which we had taken the communication of the painful decision to which he had felt himself compelled to come, M. de Bourgoing and I begged him distinctly to bear in mind that we must not be considered as having expressed either sanction or approval of it.

We were without instructions from our Governments, and could form no opinion of the manner in which they might receive the intelligence.

I had more than once already said this to His Highness, but I was not sorry to have the opportunity of repeating it in the presence of my colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 14.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 7, 1875.

I RECEIVED last night the inclosed note from Safvet Pasha, transmitting the "Iradé" for the reduction of the interest on the Debt.

A modification has been introduced into the first project of entire repudiation of half the interest.

According to the "Iradé," half the interest is to be paid in money, and the other half in bonds bearing interest at 5 per cent. The revenues which are to be paid as security into the hands of the Syndicates to be appointed are those derived from the Customs, salt, and tobacco, the Egyptian tribute, and, if these are found insufficient, the sheep tax.

It is to be remarked that every one of these sources of revenue had already been assigned as securities for different foreign loans, and in some cases with the engagement that they should be paid to Syndicates. I pointed out both these circumstances when the project was first mentioned to me.

Whatever may have been the necessity or propriety of this act of repudiation, and, although opinion is divided, the majority of the local financial public appears to recognize it, little is to be said in favour of the manner in which the decision has been come to, for it has been taken without any consultation with those who would have been competent to suggest the least injurious mode of making the declaration of insolvency.

Amongst other difficulties which may be expected, the appointment of the Syndicates to receive the revenues will probably be one of the first.

It is stated that the rights of the Imperial Ottoman Bank are to be maintained, but an essential part of the arrangement under which it was recently erected into a State Bank, was that all the revenues of the Empire were to be paid direct to it, and how this is to be reconciled with the payment of important branches of income to the proposed Syndicates, it is not at present easy to see.

Some of those who are most indignant at the act of repudiation, hope that the Governments of the countries of which the subjects will be the heaviest losers may yet force the Porte to retract it.

I confess that I cannot think the interest of the bondholders would be advanced if this could be effected.

It is undeniable that the Porte has not, at this moment, the money required for the ordinary service of the State. The advance for the payment of the October dividend was not obtained at less than 18 per cent., and after the shake now given to Turkish credit, an advance for the January and subsequent coupons, could hardly be got upon any terms.

The inclosed note from Safvet Pasha, containing a further explanation of the measure, has just reached me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 14.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 6 Octobre*, 1875.

J'AI l'honneur de remettre ci-inclus à votre Excellence copie d'une publication officielle relative à la mesure qui vient d'être décrétée par la Sublime Porte pour le mode de paiement du coupon des dettes intérieures et extérieures de l'Empire Ottoman, paiement qui aura lieu pendant cinq ans, moitié en espèces et moitié en obligations portant cinq pour cent d'intérêts.

Le Gouvernement Impérial espère que votre Excellence voudra bien apprécier avec l'équité et l'impartialité qui la caractérisent les raisons impérieuses qui lui ont dicté l'application de cette mesure destinée à équilibrer le budget ainsi que les guaranties sérieuses qui sont affectées au paiement du coupon ainsi réduit sans avoir désormais recours au système des emprunts qui ont porté une si grave atteinte à l'économie budgetaire de l'Empire.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, October 6*, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency herewith copy of an official publication with reference to the measure which has just been decreed by the Sublime Porte for the manner of paying the coupons of the home and foreign debts of the Ottoman Empire, a payment which will be made during five years, half in cash, half in obligations bearing interest at 5 per cent.

The Imperial Government hopes that your Excellency will be good enough, with the the equity and impartiality which characterize you, to appreciate the cogent reasons which have dictated to it the application of this measure, which is destined to balance the budget, as well as the important guarantees which are assigned to the payment of the coupon thus reduced, without having henceforth recourse to the system of loans which have so seriously affected the financial economy of the Empire.

Believe, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 14.

Official Notification respecting the Reduction of Interest, dated October 6, 1875.

[See Inclosure 1 in No. 11.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 14.

Official Note explanatory of that of the 6th October.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 11.]

No. 15.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 7*, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note from Safvet Pasha stating that the reduction of the interest will not be applied to the guaranteed Loan of 1855.

A similar communication has been made to the French Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 6 Octobre*, 1875.

POUR faire suite à ma lettre de ce jour concernant la déclaration de la Sublime Porte au sujet de la réduction du coupon des dettes intérieures et extérieures de l'Empire Ottoman, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que cette mesure restrictive ne devra nullement être appliquée à l'emprunt de 1855 garanti par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, et que le service des intérêts de cet emprunt continuera à se faire comme par le passé.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien prévenir son Gouvernement de ce qui précède, afin que cette décision de la Sublime Porte soit portée sans retard à la connaissance des contractants de l'emprunt dont il s'agit.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, October 6*, 1875.

IN continuation of my letter of to-day with reference to the declaration of the Sublime Porte on the subject of the reduction of the coupon of the Foreign and Internal debts of the Ottoman Empire, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that this restrictive measure is not in any way applicable to the Loan of 1855, guaranteed by Her Majesty's Government, and that the payment of the interest on this loan will continue to be made as in the past.

I beg that your Excellency will have the goodness to inform your Government of the above, in order that this decision of the Sublime Porte may be communicated without delay to the contractors of the loan in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

No. 16.

Mr. Webb to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

My Lord, *High Park Lodge, Ryde, Isle of Wight, October 11*, 1875.

I VENTURE to draw your Lordship's attention to the case of the bondholders of Turkish 1854 Stock, with the hope that your intervention may be exercised on their behalf. The holders of this loan have invariably paid a price relatively to those and other Turkish Stock exceptionally high, in consideration of the solemnly pledged original security which it offers; and it is an act of singular and needless injustice on the part of the Porte to class them with those who have been deriving an enormous percentage from the purchase of bonds without special or with merely secondary guarantees.

I am, &c.
(Signed) J. G. HERBERT WEBB.

No. 17.

Mr. Brown to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

Braywick House, Green Lanes, Stoke Newington,
My Lord, *London, October 14*, 1875.

AS I have no doubt your Lordship is inundated with letters from sufferers caused by the recent Decree of the Sultan, I shall be very brief in what I have to say. Had the Turkish Government only failed to pay the interest on its general debt, which has no sinking fund or hypothecations of any kind to secure it, no one would have been surprised, and no one could have complained, as it was well known that it depended upon whether or not there was a surplus revenue, or at least should have depended upon it, instead of ruinous loans. But to attempt to deal with special revenues which had been mortgaged to the bondholders without their consent, cannot, I think, be regarded in any other light than a deliberate fraud. Had they been consulted, I have no doubt they would have consented to accept 4 per cent. instead of 6 per cent. during the year 1876, to enable the Government

to equalize its receipts and expenditure, and also agreed to reconsider the subject at the end of that time as to the necessity of continuing the reduction for a longer period. As regards the holders of the unsecured Loan, they have no legal or moral claim to anything until those of the others have been satisfied. But it is scarcely necessary to say that indirectly they would be greatly benefitted by the concession of the bondholders who hold hypothecated revenues. In treating both alike, the Turkish Government is intentionally acting most unjustly, or it has no perception between what is right and wrong.

I am, &c.

(Signed) D. F. BROWN.

No. 18.

Mr. Hyde Clarke to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

Council of Foreign Bondholders, 10, *Moorgate Street,*

My Lord, *London, October* 15, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that at a meeting of the General Court of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, held on Thursday, the 14th instant, in consequence of the receipt of applications from numerous bondholders of the various Turkish Loans, it was moved by the Chairman, Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., seconded by Mr. C. Surgey, and resolved—

"That a meeting of Turkish Bondholders be summoned to protest against the recent Decree, and to consider the best steps to be taken to protect the general interests of the bondholders."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HYDE CLARKE, *Secretary.*

No. 19.

Mr. Parnell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18.)

My Lord, *Ripple Court, Ringwould, Dover, October* 13, 1875.

WILL you excuse, kindly, the liberty a private gentleman takes in writing to you and laying before you a few crude ideas on the subject of Turkish finance.

It would almost appear that the time had arrived when the great European Powers might reasonably and fairly come forward, and say to the Porte, "You have involved yourself in a great difficulty. We will assist you and extricate you on one condition, viz., that you allow us to appoint a permanent, joint, financial Commission, of one member from each of the great Powers, into whose hands the whole Turkish revenue shall be paid for the future, and who alone shall have power to make loans and adjust the sums needful for each department of the State."

Presuming the Porte to assent to this proposal, the first consideration for the finance Commission would be the Public Debt.

The Public Debt of Turkey may be divided into two groups; the secured about 43,000,000*l.*, and the unsecured about 150,000,000*l.* nominal.

Those who have lent their money on *bonâ fide* security must be kept faith with immediately.

Those who have lent their money on unsecured, or partially secured, securities have had a strong motive for doing so, and must be dealt with differently.

The interest on the unsecured debt must be stopped immediately, and, in lieu thereof, the Finance Commission should be authorized to raise 100,000,000*l.* at 6 per cent., the interest to be guaranteed by the great Powers, and the money applied to paying off the unsecured bondholders, at the price of issue.

This would be fair and just to the bondholders.

It would save a catastrophe at Constantinople, and give immediate relief to Turkey; and the risk to the great Powers very small indeed.

It is a grand opportunity for Europe to step in and civilize Central Asia, than whom none would benefit more. Do, my Lord, apply your strong and sound mind to this idea.

Should the Porte refuse to entertain this proposal, I am of opinion that constraint

should be exercised, and the fleets ordered up the Dardanelles. It is not to be endured that she shall dictate to the great Powers of Europe.

None will profit so much as herself by acceding to such a proposal.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) HENRY W. PARNELL.

No. 20.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 16 Octobre*, 1875.

JE viens de recevoir de son Excellence Safvet Pacha une dépêche relative à la mesure que le Gouvernement Impérial vient de prendre à l'égard de la dette publique de l'Empire et par laquelle je suis invité à en donner lecture à votre Excellence et à lui en laisser copie, si elle en exprime le désir.

Comme, à cause de l'absence de votre Excellence de Londres, je ne puis pas m'acquitter en personne des instructions de mon Gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de donner à votre Excellence communication de la dépêche précitée, en lui en transmettant ci-jointe la copie,

Votre, &c.

(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, October 16*, 1875.

I HAVE just received from his Excellency Safvet Pasha a despatch relating to the measure which the Imperial Government has lately taken with respect to the Public Debt of the Empire, and in which I am requested to read it to your Excellency and to leave you a copy if you express a wish to that effect.

Since, in consequence of your Excellency's absence from London, I cannot in person obey the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to communicate the said despatch to your Excellency, and I transmit a copy of it herewith.

Your, &c.

(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

Sublime Porte, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères,

M. l'Ambassadeur, *le 7 Octobre*, 1875.

MA dépêche télégraphique du 6 Octobre vous a fait connaître la promulgation des réformes radicales et indispensables que la Sublime Porte est décidée à mettre dès à présent à exécution dans l'Empire.

L'expérience a en effet constaté l'inefficacité de l'application de l'impôt du quart de la îme perçu en sus de celui de la dîme proprement dite, et de la perception en bloc des arriérés qu'on a voulu essayer dès l'année dernière.

L'exiguité relative des ressources agricoles actuelles destinées à prendre un développement progressif dans un prochain avenir n'a pas permis de maintenir cette redevance du quart de la dîme qui, au lieu de profiter au Trésor dans la mesure à laquelle on croyait devoir s'attendre, n'a, au contraire, amené qu'un malaise plus accentué que par le passé et tendant à tarir de plus en plus les ressources de l'agriculture au détriment des intérêts des populations. Il en a été de même pour les arriérés dont le prélèvement exigé par la loi n'a non-seulement pu satisfaire aux exigences du Trésor, mais encore a été de nature à provoquer certaines mesures vexatoires qui ont forcément échappé à la répression légale, et une plus grande gêne aux contribuables déjà placés dans une situation difficile par rapport au payement des autres impôts.

Sa Majesté Impériale, notre auguste Maître, justement ému de cet état de choses, a voulu, dans ses sentiments de magnanimité et de haute sollicitude pour ses sujets, alléger les charges les plus lourdes imposées au pays ; et, en vertu de ses ordres Souverains, la Sublime Porte vient de décider, à l'instar de l'Ile de Crète, l'abolition du quart de dîme dont il s'agit, ainsi que la remise entière de la totalité des arriérés dus jusqu'à l'année 1873, sans restriction aucune, dans toutes les parties de l'Empire.

Cette preuve éclatante et spontanée des sentiments généraux de Sa Majesté Impériale est au-dessus de tout commentaire, et sera, nous en sommes persuadés, dûment et hautement appréciée par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Mais tout ceci n'est encore que le précurseur d'autres améliorations importantes et reconnues nécessaires, telles que la transformation du système de la dîme en impôt foncier, l'envoi de *missi dominici* dans les provinces, un mode plus équitable de l'élection des membres des Conseils Provinciaux, &c., toutes choses qui ne tarderont pas à être successivement introduites dans toutes les branches de l'Administration.

Ainsi, les fidèles et loyaux sujets du Sultan, exonérés immédiatement des plus lourdes redevances qui pesaient sur eux, et dégagés dès lors de toutes les entraves qui auraient pu paralyser la production agricole, trouvent désormais une vaste champ pour l'extension de leurs ressources et pour l'essor, par conséquent, de la prospérité générale de l'Empire.

Mais, d'un autre côté, les sommes considérables destinées au service du coupon de nos dettes intérieures et extérieures n'étant point en harmonie avec l'équilibre budgétaire, et l'accumulation des intérêts des divers emprunts contractés jusqu'à ce jour ayant augmenté, au-delà de toute prévision, les chapitres des dépenses, toutes ces circonstances, jointes à la diminution d'une partie des recettes par suite de l'abolition des mesures restrictives précitées, ne laissent pas que d'affecter d'une manière très sensible, au point de vue fiscal, l'économie du budget.

Comme conséquence inévitable de ces nouvelles améliorations, les recettes générales suivront nécessairement une progression ascendante, en proportion du développement futur des ressources de l'Empire. Mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que la gêne, qui existait dès l'origine, et qui s'est accrue de jour en jour, pèsera d'une façon très lourde sur le Trésor, qui se voit placé, d'un côté, en face de la perspective séduisante de l'augmentation de ses revenus par suite des réformes accomplies et à décréter ; mais, de l'autre, en celle de la nécessité impérieuse de satisfaire aux engagements du Gouvernement et aux exigences de la situation actuelle.

La loyauté traditionnelle de la Sublime Porte en ce qui concerne particulièrement l'exécution ponctuelle de ses obligations vis-à-vis des créanciers de l'Etat, pèsera plus que jamais sur tous ses actes, sur tous ses déterminations, relatifs à ces engagements sacrés. Le Gouvernement Impérial préférerait, nous n'hésitons pas à le déclarer ici, succomber sous le poids des sacrifices les plus écrasants plutôt que de transiger avec tout ce qui serait de nature à forfaire à sa dignité et à sa haute réputation.

Mus par ces sentiments, et eu égard aussi aux considérations primordiales qui ont dû nous guider dans la question d'établir un équilibre sérieux dans le budget de l'Etat, en présence surtout de l'impossibilité pour ainsi dire absolue de créer de nouvelles ressources pour combler les lacunes sous peine d'agraver gratuitement et sans aucune utilité pratique la situation déjà pénible de tous les contribuables de l'Empire ; en présence, enfin, du temps matériel que réclameront nécessairement l'adoption et la mise en vigueur dans l'avenir, ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, de toutes les mesures administratives et d'utilité publique, ayant pour but d'augmenter les revenus du Trésor, nous n'avons pu, après mûre délibération, et après avoir pesé toutes les conséquences qui pourraient en résulter, trouver d'autre moyen que celui d'exposer en toute franchise notre situation, comme nous venons de le faire, et de prendre une mesure radicale qui pourrait, il est vrai, froisser pour le moment certains intérêts, et amener même une certaine perturbation dans le cours de nos fonds, mais qui, en face des considérations urgentes du salut public dans l'Empire Ottoman, et du maintien même de l'équilibre Européen, qui, à notre avis, s'y rattache essentiellement, est destinée à assurer une fois pour toutes le crédit de l'Etat et le fonctionnement régulier de l'Administration.

Le budget publié cette année accuse, et c'est de notoriété publique, un déficit de plus de 5,000,000*l.* Dans l'état actuel des choses, ce déficit, on ne saurait le nier, ira en augmentant, car on se voit obligé, à chaque échéance du coupon, de recourir à des emprunts plus ou moins onéreux pour en payer les intérêts et l'amortissement, ce qui ne manquera pas à un moment donné d'ébranler sérieusement la confiance des détenteurs et autres capitalistes qui se voient déjà lésés dans leurs intérêts par les variations brusques des fonds et les spéculations hasardées de la Bourse.

Un tel état anormal ne saurait évidemment disparaître qu'autant que des garanties sérieuses et incontestables seraient assurés aux détenteurs de nos fonds publics, ainsi qu'aux contractants de nos emprunts.

La mesure radicale dont nous venons de faire mention, et qui a été portée à votre connaissance par mon télégramme du 6 de ce mois, consiste, comme vous l'avez vu, en la réduction, dès à présent, à moitié du payement des échéances du dit coupon, dont le service sera garanti par les revenus totaux des Douanes, du sel, et du tabac, ainsi que le tribut d'Egypte. Ce payement, vous le n'ignorez pas, se fera pendant cinq années, moitié en

espèces et moitié en obligations portant 5 pour cent d'intérêt. En cas où les garanties précitées seraient insuffisantes, le Gouvernement s'empressera d'y parfaire sur les revenus des moutons.

Toutes ces recettes seront mises dès aujourd'hui à la disposition des syndicats qui pourraient être institués pour cet objet, sous la condition bien entendu du maintien des droits et des priviléges de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

Par ce moyen le crédit sera assuré, le budget équilibré par de solides garanties, et la méfiance et le malaise général disparaîtront sans retour.

Nous avons le ferme espoir que les considérations qui précèdent et les mesures impérieusement dictées par notre situation actuelle trouveront un appui moral efficace auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Les sentiments d'amitié sincère à notre égard et le vif intérêt qu'il n'a cessé de porter à tout ce qui touche la prospérité et le progrès de l'Empire Ottoman nous sont un sûr garant que notre appel franc et loyal sera entendu par lui avec la bienveillance et la haute impartialité qui le caractérisent.

Je laisse à votre tact et à votre savoir-faire le soin de tenir le langage voulu dans le sens de cette dépêche en vue de redresser les appréciations erronées qui pourraient se produire autour de vous.

Vous voudrez bien également donner lecture de cette pièce à son Excellence le Principal Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique, et lui en laisser copie, s'il le désire.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, Foreign Office, October 7,* 1875.

MY telegraphic despatch of the 6th of October has made known to you the promulgation of the radical and indispensable reforms which the Sublime Porte has decided to put henceforth into execution in the Empire.

Experience has in fact proved the inefficiency of the impost of a quarter of the tithe levied in addition to the tithe proper, and of the collection in the lump of the arrears, which was attempted since last year.

The relative slenderness of the actual agricultural resources destined to be gradually developed in the near future, has not allowed the maintenance of this duty of a quarter of the tithe, which, instead of bringing profit to the Treasury to the extent which it was considered might be expected, has, on the contrary, only brought about a more decided inconvenience than in the past, and it tends to exhaust more and more the agricultural resources to the injury of the interests of the people. This is also applicable to the arrears, of which the collection required by the law, has not only not been able to meet the wants of the Treasury, but has also been of a kind to provoke certain vexatious measures which have necessarily escaped legal repression, and has caused a still greater inconvenience to the tax-payers already in a difficult position with regard to the payment of the other taxes.

His Imperial Majesty our august Master, justly moved at this state of things, has wished in his sentiments of magnanimity and high solicitude for his subjects to alleviate the heavier charges imposed on the country; and in virtue of his Sovereign orders, the Sublime Porte has just decided, in imitation of what was done in the Isle of Crete, to abolish the quarter of the tithe in question as well as to remit entirely the whole of the arrears due up to the year 1873, without any restriction in all parts of the Empire.

This remarkable and spontaneous proof of the generous sentiments of His Imperial Majesty, is above all comment, and will be, we feel sure, duly and highly appreciated by the Government of Her Britannic Majesty.

But all this is only the forerunner of other important ameliorations which are recognized as necessary, such as the transformation of the system of the tithe into a land tax, the sending of the *missi dominici* into the provinces, a more equitable manner of electing the members of the Provincial Councils, &c., all things the successive introduction of which into every branch of the administration will not be delayed.

Thus, the faithful and loyal subjects of the Sultan, relieved at once from the heavier of the dues which weighed on them, and freed henceforth from the hindrances which may have paralysed agricultural production, will find in the future a vast field for the extension of their resources and for the consequent development of the general prosperity of the Empire.

But, on the other hand, the considerable sums destined for the payment of the coupon of our foreign and internal debts not being at all in harmony with the financial

equilibrium, and the accumulation of the interest of the different loans contracted up to this date having increased the items of expenditure beyond all power of foresight, all these circumstances, joined to the diminution of a part of the receipts in consequence of the abolition of the aforesaid restrictive measures, cannot but affect in a very sensible manner the economy of the Budget from a fiscal point of view.

As an inevitable consequence of these new improvements, the general receipts will necessarily follow an ascending scale, in proportion to the future development of the resources of the Empire. But it is not less true that the difficulties which existed from the beginning, and which have increased from day to day, will press in a very heavy manner on the Treasury, which finds itself placed, on the one hand, in view of the seductive prospect of the increase of its revenues in consequence of the reforms accomplished and to be decreed, but, on the other, in that of the imperious necessity of satisfying the engagements of the Government and the necessities of the existing situation.

The traditional loyalty of the Sublime Porte in that which concerns specially the punctual execution of its obligations towards the creditors of the State, will have more than ever weight on all its actions, and on all its decisions, with reference to these sacred engagements. The Imperial Government would prefer, we do not hesitate to declare it here, to succumb under the weight of the most crushing sacrifices, rather than do anything calculated to forfeit its dignity and its high reputation.

Moved by these sentiments, and taking into consideration also the primordial considerations which should guide us in the question of establishing a serious equilibrium in the Budget of the State, in view above all of the absolute impossibility, so to speak, of creating new resources to fill up the gaps, under penalty of gratuitously, and without any practical utility, aggravating the situation, already painful, of all the taxpayers in the Empire; in presence, lastly, of the length of time which the adoption and execution, as has been said above, of all the measures of administration and of public utility, having as their object the increase of the revenues of the Treasury, necessarily demand, we have not been able, after mature deliberation, and after having weighed all the consequences which might result from so doing, to find any other plan than frankly to explain our situation, as we have just done, and to take a radical step, which may, it is true, irritate for the moment certain interests, and produce even a certain disturbance into the market price of our stock, but which, in presence of the urgent considerations of the public safety of the Ottoman Empire, and of the maintenance even of the European balance of power, which, according to our idea, is essentially involved therewith, is destined to assure once for all the credit of the State and the regular carrying on of the Government.

The Budget published this year displays, as is matter of public notoriety, a deficit of 5,000,000*l*. In the present state of things this deficit, one cannot deny, will go on increasing, for it is found necessary, each time that payment is due, to have recourse to loans, more or less onerous, to pay the interest and the sinking fund, and this will certainly, some day or other, seriously shake the confidence of the holders and other capitalists, who find themselves already injured in their interests by the sudden fluctuations of the funds and the risky speculations of the money market.

Such an abnormal state will evidently not disappear until serious and incontestable guarantees are assured to the holders of our public stock, as well as to the contractors of our loans.

The radical measure to which we have just alluded, and which has been brought to your knowledge by my telegram of the 6th instant, consists, as you have seen, in the reduction from this time forth to half of the payments of the said coupons as they fall due, which payment will be guaranteed by the total revenues of the Custom House, of the salt and tobacco taxes, as well as by the Egyptian Tribute. This payment, as you are aware, will extend over five years, half in cash and half in bonds, bearing interest at 5 per cent. In the event of these guarantees proving insufficient, the Government will not fail to make them up out of the tax on sheep.

All these receipts will be henceforth put at the disposition of the Syndicates which will be instituted for this object, on the condition, of course, of the maintenance of the rights and privileges of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

By these means credit will be assured, the Budget balanced by solid guarantees, and mistrust and the general uneasiness will disappear for ever.

We have the firm hope that these considerations, and the measures cogently dictated by our present situation, will meet with efficient moral support from Her Britannic Majesty's Government.

The sentiments of sincere friendship for us, and the lively interest which it has unceasingly evinced for everything which affects the prosperity and the progress of the

Ottoman Empire are a sure guarantee to us that our frank and loyal appeal will be listened to by it, with the friendliness and high impartiality which characterise it.

I leave to your tact and your *savoir-faire* the choice of language which you should hold in the sense of this dispatch, so as to alleviate erroneous impressions which may arise.

You will be good enough also to read this document to his Excellency the Principal Secretary of State of Her Britannic Majesty, and leave him a copy of it if he wishes it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

No. 21.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 18.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 16 *Octobre*, 1875.

J'AI l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique de son Excellence Safvet Pacha, m'informant que la dernière mesure financière ne sera pas appliquée à l'emprunt de 1855, garanti par l'Angleterre et la France.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

(Translation.)

My Lord, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, October* 16, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency the copy, herewith inclosed, of a telegraphic despatch from his Excellency Safvet Pasha, informing me that the late financial measure will not be applied to the Loan of 1855, guaranteed by England and by France.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 14 *Octobre*, 1875.

LA dernière mesure financière ne sera pas appliquée à l'emprunt de 1855, garanti par l'Angleterre et la France ; et le service des intérêts de cet emprunt continuera à se faire comme par le passé. Nous en avons déjà informé les Ambassadeurs de l'Angleterre et de France.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 16, 1875.

THE late financial measure will not be applied to the Loan of 1855, guaranteed by England and by France; and the service of the interest will continue to be met as heretofore. We have already informed the Ambassadors of England and of France.

No. 22.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 11th instant, inclosing a copy of the official declaration published by the Sublime Porte on the 10th instant, relating to the reduction of interest on the Turkish Debt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 23.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1875.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th instant, I approve the remonstrance which you made, in conjunction with your French colleague, to the Porte, respecting the

denial of the report of the reduction of interest on the Ottoman Debt, which appeared through the Reuter agency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 24.

Mr. Hyde Clarke to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 21.)

Council of Foreign Bondholders, 10, *Moorgate Street*,
My Lord, *London*, *October* 20, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that at a meeting of the holders of all issues of Turkish bonds, held at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, on Tuesday the 19th instant, the Right Honourable Hugh C. E. Childers, M.P., in the chair, the following Resolution was unanimously passed :—

Moved by Mr. R. H. Galloway, seconded by Mr. A. K. Corfield, and resolved—

"That in the view of the course taken by the Imperial Ottoman Government with reference to the interest and sinking fund on the Loans raised by that Government, it is desirable that the Council of Foreign bondholders should take such steps as may be deemed advisable for the protection of the bondholders, in co-operation with any persons appointed for that purpose as the representatives of the several classes of bondholders, and that the Council be requested to take action accordingly. But that no agreement should be made with the Ottoman Government, except upon the basis of each class of bondholders retaining the full advantage secured to them under their special guarantees. That the Council be requested as one of their first measures to memorialize Her Majesty's Goverment, and to seek their assistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HYDE CLARKE, *Secretary*.

No. 25.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Parnell.

Sir, *Foreign Office*, *October* 21, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, upon the subject of the Turkish Foreign Debt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 26.

*Mr. Lister to Mr. Hyde Clarke.**

Sir, *Foreign Office*, *October* 22, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, upon the subject of the reduction to be made by the Porte of the interest payable upon the various Ottoman Loans, and I am to state to you in reply that this question is under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 27.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office*, *October* 22, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, respecting the project of the Porte for the future payment of the interest upon the various Ottoman Loans, and I have to inform your Excellency that this question is at present under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Similar letters were addressed to Mr. D. Brown and Mr. H. Webb.

No. 28.

Sir John Lubbock to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

Council of Foreign Bondholders, Moorgate Street,
My Lord, *London, October 23, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Lordship the following Resolution, which was unanimously passed at a very large meeting of Turkish bondholders of all classes, held on Tuesday, the 19th instant, the Right Honourable Hugh C. E. Childers, M.P., in the chair:—

Moved by Mr. R. H. Galloway;
Seconded by Mr. A. K. Corfield; and

Resolved—That, in view of the course taken by the Imperial Ottoman Government, with reference to the interest and sinking fund on the loans raised by that Government, it is desirable that the Council of Foreign Bondholders should take such steps as may be deemed advisable for the protection of the bondholders, in co-operation with any persons appointed for that purpose as the representatives of the several classes of bondholders, and that the Council be requested to take action accordingly, but that no agreement should be made with the Ottoman Government, except upon the basis of each class of bondholders retaining the full advantage now secured to them under their special guarantees.

That the Council be requested, as one of their first measures, to memorialize Her Majesty's Government, and to seek their assistance.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders, therefore, most earnestly entreat that Her Majesty's Government will promptly use their utmost influence with the Ottoman Government for the protection of the general interests of the Turkish bondholders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN LUBBOCK, *Acting Chairman.*

No. 29.

Mr. W. H. Clark to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

My Lord, *6, Leinster Gardens, Hyde Park, October 22, 1875.*

AS a holder of Turkish Bonds of 1854, I submit to your Lordship the inclosed statement, which, for greater convenience of perusal, I have had printed, in the hope that the account therein of the circumstances under which the Loan was raised, the encouragement given thereto by the Queen's Government, through one of your Lordship's most eminent predecessors, and the considerations I have ventured to add, will induce the present Government to insist, at Constantinople and Cairo, on the strict fulfilment of its terms and of the directions given in 1854 by the Sultan to the Pasha of Egypt for half-yearly remittances for its continued service of the tribute of Egypt.

Otherwise, an act positively criminal in its character will be perpetrated by the Sultan, to a serious injury of British subjects, who, relying on the confidence expressed by the late Earl of Clarendon, as Foreign Minister, that the Sultan would in good faith fulfil his engagements, lent their money, and made purchases of those bonds at prices far exceeding those of the other Six per cent. Turkish Loans.

I transmit the printed statement in triplicate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. CLARK

Inclosure in No. 29.

The Turkish Loan of 1854.

IN August 1854, Turkey was involved in the war with Russia, in which it had for its allies the Governments of France and England.

The Sultan requiring money to carry on the war, and his allies being interested in his obtaining money, then caused to be opened in London a Loan for 3,000,000*l.* in bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest, issued at the price of 80 per cent., and redeemable by an accumulative sinking fund of 1 per cent. To the subscription of this Loan encouragement was given by the allies, the French and English Governments.

On the security of the mortgage of the tribute which the Sultan had reserved out of the revenues of Egypt, in reappointing, in 1841, Mehemet Ali Pasha of that province, and rendering its Pachalic hereditary in his family, and on the encouragement given to the Loan by the allied Governments, the money sought by the Sultan was furnished by English subscribers, and the Loan constituted part of the history of the war.

The negotiation for the Loan was confided by the Sultan to Messrs. Black and Durand, under the supervision and control of His Majesty's diplomatic representatives in Paris and London, and they conjointly made arrangements for its issue with the late Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid and Mr. J. Horsley Palmer, of London.

The prospectus of Loan issued by those gentlemen stated that:

"This Loan is not only charged on the general revenue of Turkey, but is specially secured, principal and interest, by the assignment of 30,000,000 piastres (282,000*l.* sterling), tribute paid by the Pasha of Egypt to His Majesty the Sultan, by virtue of the Treaty of 1841, contracted under the sanction of the Great Powers of Europe. This tribute is to be remitted half-yearly direct from the Pasha of Egypt to the Agents in London."

Subjoined to and made part of the prospectus was the following notification:—

"The undersigned have the satisfaction to inform the public that they are authorized by the Earl of Clarendon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to state that this Loan is negotiated with the knowledge of the English Government; that Her Majesty's Government is satisfied that the Loan and the appropriation of the above-mentioned 30,000,000 piastres (282,000*l.* sterling) are duly authorized by the Sultan; and further, that the representatives of the Sublime Porte at Paris and London are empowered by virtue of the Imperial Firmans to ratify the contract for the Loan in the name of his Majesty the Sultan; and Lord Clarendon relies with confidence upon the Turkish Government fulfilling with good faith the engagements they entered into.

"The undersigned are assured that a similar declaration will be made by M. Drouyn de L'huys, the French Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Isaac L. Goldsmid, and J. Horsley Palmer.—London, 16th August."

As usual in loans, a general bond, dated August 24th, 1854, was deposited in the Bank of England. This general bond contained the following irrevocable pledge:

"Be it therefore known that the undersigned, deeming it most for the interest and advantage of His Imperial Majesty's Government to raise the said Loan on the terms and conditions hereafter contained, do, in pursuance of the powers and authorities vested in them for that purpose, hereby bind and oblige the Government of His Imperial Majesty and the revenues of the Ottoman Empire and Government to the payment of the said Loan, principal and interest, as hereafrer stipulated, and in particular do specially and irrevocably charge forthwith as the additional guarantee 30,000,000 of piastres, or 282,000*l.*, part of the tribute payable to His Imperial Majesty by His Highness the Pacha of Egypt, and in order that the said 30,000,000 of piastres, or 282,000*l.* sterling, may be more effectually and irrevocably pledged and appropriated to the payment of the interest and redemption of the said Loan, the undersigned engage that the necessary Firmans and authorities shall be issued without delay for the due and punctual remittance to the Bank of England or the Bank of France, so that the same may be at the disposal of the Agents of the Loan for that purpose."

This general bond bore the signatures of:

"J. N. Black,"
"The Ambassador of the Sublime
"Porte at Paris,
"Vely."

"P. Durand,"
"The Minister of the Sublime
"Porte in London,
"C. Musurus."

The engagement of these duly authorised representatives of the Sultan and signatories of the general bond that the necessary Firmans and authorities should be issued without delay for the due and punctual remittance of the tribute so irrevocably pledged for the service of the Loan, was fulfilled by the Sultan, who, in October 1854, addressed the following solemn Decree to the then Pacha of Egypt:—

"(Hatti Sherif). Be it acted upon accordingly.

"(Imperial Cypher). Abdu-'l-Médjid Khan, son of Mahmoud ever Victorious.

"My Vizier, the present Governor-General of Egypt, Mohammed Sa'ed Pacha, &c.

"When my Imperial Decree shall reach thee, be it known that it has been unanimously decided that, deduction made of the sum allotted to the Hedjaz, the remainder of the tribute of Egypt, amounting to sixty thousand purses, which, at the rate of twenty-two and a half piastres to the dollar, make one million, three hundred and thirty-three

thousand, three hundred and thirty-three pillar dollars and one-third (to be henceforward calculated at that value) shall be deposited in the Bank of England or of France every six months, as follows, namely: One-half of the aforesaid sum, amounting to thirty thousand purses, shall be deposited in the Bank of England or of France on the 10th of April (new style), and the other half, amounting also to thirty thousand purses, on the 10th day of October (new style), of the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, and so on, until the liquidation is complete, as a special set-off against the interest and capital of the sum borrowed by virtue of a contract dated the 24th day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, and under conditions therein stated from the Baron Goldsmid and Mr. John Horsley Palmer, through the respectable merchants, Black and Durand, according to my Imperial Decree. That the suitable partition of this sum of sixty thousand purses between the two Banks shall be discussed and settled on the spot between the two Allied Governments and my Imperial Ambassadors in London and Paris.

"And that until the full payment of the interest, as well as of the capital, of the sum so borrowed, care shall be taken that the payments continue to be made invariably in the above manner.

"My Imperial commands have therefore been issued for the execution thereof in the manner aforesaid; and as this Imperial Firman is to be deposited in the aforesaid Bank of England, this my Imperial Order has been issued from my Imperial Chancery, authorising thee to make payment in due time and season of the sums aforesaid, and has been sent to the proper quarter to be deposited in the aforesaid Bank.

"When this matter becomes known to thee, thou wilt, in conformity with the judgment and intelligence which characterise thee, and in the manner aforesaid, make payment in due time and season into the aforesaid Banks of London and Paris of 60,000 purses out of the aforesaid tribute, pursuant to the above command.

"Thus know thou—Give thou full credence to my Imperial Cypher, done in the first decade of the month Safer, 1271 (third decade, October, 1854).

"Written in Constantinople the well guarded."

(Signed) "J. W. Redhouse.

"*London, 27th December*, 1854."

This document in the certificates issued to the bondholders precedes the copy of the general bond.

By this Hatti Sherif, the Sultan made it an obligation on the Pacha of Egypt invariably to pay half-yearly the requisite sum out of the tribute reserved in 1841, and which was free from all anterior charge, the requisite sum "until the liquidation was complete," in terms of the Contract of 24th of August, 1854, as set out in the general bond. The mortgage of the tribute was irrevocable. The payment of the tribute was to be invariable.

The Agents for the Loan of 1854, through whom interest had to be paid and redemption of the principal made, were Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Co.

In the succeeding year, 1855, the Allied Governments of England and France guaranteed a 4 per cent. Loan of 5,000,000*l.* raised by the Sultan in England. It was secured on the balance of the annual amount of the tribute of Egypt, after payment thereout of the half-yearly interest and redemption of the Loan of 1854, and on other purely Turkish revenues; and the International Convention of 1855 between his Allies and the Sultan recognised the prior security on the tribute of the Loan of 1854. In explaining to the House of Commons the sufficiency of the balance to meet the requirements of the guaranteed Loan of 1854 without recourse to the guaranteeing Governments, Viscount Palmerston, then Home Minister of England, informed the House of Commons:—

"The immediate security given is, in the first place, the available surplus of the tribute of Egypt. That surplus, after providing for the interest and sinking fund of the loan contracted last year, amounts to about 65,000*l.*, which will be applicable to the payment of the interest and sinking fund of the present loan. Beyond that the security given is the entire revenue of the Turkish Empire, and arrangements will be made to secure certain parts of that revenue to provide the means, from time to time, of meeting the interest and the demands of the sinking fund."

And the Earl of Clarendon, then Foreign Minister of the Queen, who had encouraged in that capacity, and in the name and on behalf of the English Government, subscriptions to the Loan of 1854, explained to the House of Lords:—

"The revenue hypothecated for the payment of the interest on the Loan is also amply sufficient for this purpose. The Egyptian tribute amounts to 280,000*l.*; that is to be sent direct to this country. Of this tribute, 210,000*l.* are pledged to the payment of the Loan recently contracted, leaving 70,000*l.* available for the new Loan. The net profit

of the Customs of Smyrna, &c., amount to 180,000*l.*, and those of Syria, after making all deductions, to 100,000*l.*; this, with the balance of the Egpptian tribute, makes a sum of 350,000*l.*, which is fully sufficient for the purposes of this Convention."

The English Parliament, with this official knowledge that the tribute bore a previous "irrevocable" and "invariable" charge in favour of the Loan of 1854, enacted a law giving the requisite guarantee of England to the Loan of 1855.

The tribute of Egypt, as it existed in 1854, was and continues to be amply sufficient for the service of the Loan of 1854, and assists the service of the Loan of 1855.

For twenty-three years that tribute has, in conformity with the Hatti Sherif of October 1854, been remitted by the Treasury of Egypt to the Bank of England, and out of its proceeds the interest and redemption of the Loan of 1854 have been first met, and then those of the Loan of 1855. Of its sufficiency for these successive purposes, until both interest and principal are wholly discharged, no doubt has arisen. Neither, as yet, so far as it is known, has the Khedive of Egypt been otherwise instructed than by the Hatti Sherif of October 1854. Nor is it to be contemplated that, having been thereby directed invariably to make the requisite remittance until the liquidation of the Loan of 1854 is complete in terms of its contract of 24th August, 1854, the Khedive of Egypt is at liberty to cease remittances for the purpose.

By the law and tribunals of England and of other civilised States, the Khedive can only be released from the obligation imposed on him, and from the right thereby accruing to the bondholders, by the bondholders themselves.

By means of the accumulative sinking fund of 1 per cent., the outstanding amount of the Loan of 1854 has been reduced to less than 2,000,000*l.*

The Sultan, subsequently to 1855, continued to make other loans to a large amount. But between them and this a wide difference of price has always existed. Owing to the superior security of the Loan of 1854, its market price has ranged 10 or 12 per cent. higher than any other Six per Cent. Loan raised by the Sultan.

It will be seen that by the prospectus in which subscriptions were asked for, the contractors stated that the tribute pledged would be remitted direct to the agents for the service of this Loan. That service was not subsequently to be complicated with ro delayed by Turkish finances.

The Governments of England and France concurrently, and before the subscriptions were made, gave assurances to the public whose subscriptions were solicited that the Turkish Plenipotentiaries possessed those powers from the Sultan, on which they were acting, and expressed confidence that reliance might be placed on the good faith with which the Sultan's engagements would be fulfilled.

By the general bond for the Loan, the Sultan's representatives, exercising their powers "specially and irrevocably," charged the tribute for its interest and redemption and engaged that the Sultan should forthwith issue authority for the due and punctual remittance thereof for the Loan.

The duty was imposed by the Sultan's Hatti Sherif on the Pasha to make invariably these payments half-yearly "until" the Loan was liquidated in terms of the general bond.

The securities of the Loan were and are thus in every respect complete and permanent in their essence and character.

It is now, however, proposed by the Sultan to vary and disregard the terms on which the Loan of 1854 was subscribed, while fulfilling to the letter the stipulations of the Loan of 1855, and that because it is guaranteed by the English and French Governments. This exception in favour of the latter may, in a measure, make those Governments in 1875 parties to the breach of that good faith in which, in 1854, they expressed confidence to intending subscribers to the Loan of that year.

The English and French Governments must, if they accept the Sultan's monstrous preference, further accept their second charge on the tribute of Egypt as superior to the first charge thereon, to the injury and damage of the prior encumbrance and the first mortgagees, the bondholders of the Loan of 1854. Their escape from liability on their guarantee of the Loan of 1855 will be simply owing to their political authority and military power over the Sultan, which he seeks to avoid by this exception in their favour, while defrauding those creditors who possess rights in the tribute anterior and superior to those of the two Governments, but are helpless except in the protection of their own Government.

The tribute of 280,000*l.* so charged, being sufficient for both Loans, for Governments holding the inferior security to descend to take advantage of it as against a superior security, will involve a sacrifice of the interests of private persons to the force of England and France as States, and to the political fears and favouritism of the Sultan.

Turkey, having alienated irrevocably, to raise a loan, the tribute of Egypt in 1854, cannot now resume receipt of any part of that tribute, except by a resort to arbitrary power and in defiance of moral and legal right.

The Governments of England and France cannot take the benefit of their proposed exemption from Turkish confiscation of the rights of the Loan of 1854 without placing themselves in the position of first mortgagees of the tribute, whereas, in fact, and in law, they are only second mortgagees.

By sanctioning this conduct of the Sultan, the Governments of England and France may, probably will, stimulate and encourage the Khedive of Egypt to a disregard of the duty imposed on him by the Hatti Sherif of October 1854, which directs His Highness invariably to pay the tribute for the service of the Loan of 1854, until wholly liquidated in terms of its contract.

The bondholders of 1854, receiving their promised payments out of the tribute of Egypt for upwards of twenty years, have had no connection with or reliance on the revenues of Turkey. To allow them now to be thrown back on those revenues, or their special and amply sufficient security to be swamped in the embarrassed finances of Turkey, will be to sanction an unparalleled abuse even of despotic power, and shake to the foundation every reliance on public engagements or on a sufficient specific pledge for pecuniary loans. More reasonably or rightfully might a first mortgagee of solvent reality be relegated for payment to an insolvent personalty.

This is not a case of an ordinary or of an imprudent Loan. The holders of Turkish bonds of 1854 cannot be reproached with subscribing or purchasing or holding them at their own risk and with knowledge of danger. The original subscription was encouraged and promoted in their own interests by the Governments of France and England; the money was lent to meet the Turkish expenses in a war to which those Governments were parties; it was raised on security pronounced by the borrower to be irrevocable, and described by his allies to be reliable; it was lent on the faith of directions by the Sultan of a permanent character to the feudatory Sovereign of Egypt, invariably to pay interest and redemption until the whole of the sum borrowed was liquidated. The Khedive of Egypt is able and willing, and it is not to be doubted desirous for his own sake, to continue the payment. Law would, if the question of his refusal could be brought before a tribunal, compel the Khedive to make the accustomed payments out of tribute. But all that is necessary for the continuance of the Khedive's payments is that a firm resolution be expressed by the English Government to the Sultan and the Khedive that such payments must continue, and the English Government, it is submitted, is bound by its official avouchments of 1854 alone to take that step.

By it the Sultan will not be damnified, for, since 1854, he has not received any part of the tribute pledged for the 1854 Loan; the Khedive will not be injured, for it matters not pecuniarily to His Highness to whom he makes such payment.

But it does matter to the English Government that, having promoted this Loan in 1854, it should not abandon the Loan in 1875; it does matter that the Sultan should not be permitted to commit a downright robbery in respect of what that Government, when interested in procuring him money to carry on a war in which it was deeply interested, expressed official confidence in; it does matter to the Khedive that he should not be dragged into a position that will discredit him by his being made a tool of Turkish dishonesty; it does matter that public faith should not be needlessly made a mockery, a delusion, and a snare; and it does matter to the bondholders of the 1854 Loan, that they should now receive the support of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and all the power and influence of England at Constantinople and Cairo.

October 16, 1875.

No. 30.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 24.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 9, 1875.

IN the note of the 6th instant, inclosed in my despatch No. 641 of the 7th instant, upon the reduction of the interest, it was stated that during five years it would be paid half in cash, and half in obligations bearing 5 per cent. interest.

The explanatory note, which I only received in time to forward to your Lordship by the last post without comment, gave however a very different version of the proposal; for it appeared that the obligations are not to be for the amount of the suppressed half of the interest, but only for the interest upon that amount.

According to the natural interpretation of the first notice, the payment of half the interest was to be deferred for five years, whereas, according to the second, if it is adhered to, it will be almost wholly confiscated.

I have caused it to be intimated to the Grand Vizier, that as the adoption of any measure of repudiation could not fail to shake the national credit to the very centre, the present mode of proceeding would utterly destroy it, and afford grounds for serious protest.

I was asked what I would advise the Government to do to annul the effect of the last notice, without too apparent a contradiction.

I said I must decline to give any advice as to the manner in which they should proceed.

It was my duty to point out that the explanatory notice would be regarded as contrary to the understanding conveyed by the first; that it would be severely judged upon every Stock Exchange in Europe, and would cause wide-spread ruin among the local houses. I could earnestly urge the Porte to take all this into serious consideration, but it was out of the question to suppose that I should take the responsibility of suggesting the mode by which the explanatory notice should be explained away.

The only advice that I had to offer was that which I had at first given, when I recommended that if repudiation in some shape was thought inevitable, and to the interest both of the State and of the bondholders, the Government should proceed in an open manner, and concert with their creditors upon the least injurious way of carrying it out.

A contrary course had been followed, and, as far as I could judge, the general indignation against the Government is caused much more by the manner in which they had proceeded than by the fact of their having decided to lower the interest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 31.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 15, 1875.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a memorandum of a communication addressed by the Porte to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, inviting it to take measures for concerting with the contractors of the foreign loans for the constitution of Syndicates to receive the revenues affected to the service of the public debt.

The Bank is also asked to concert with the Ministry of Finance in preparing arrangements for securing the punctual execution of the financial measures.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Safvet Pasha to the Turkish Representatives Abroad.

Octobre 14, 1875.

LE Ministre des Finances vient d'adresser à la Banque Impériale, d'ordre du Grand Vizir, une lettre par laquelle, en sa qualité de Banque d'Etat elle est chargée de se concerter, par l'organe de ses comités de Londres et de Paris, avec les contractants des emprunts extérieurs pour la désignation des Sindicats qui doivent fonctionner avec ceux de Consantinople dans la surveillance et avec la co-opération de la Banque Impériale, et auxquels seront consignés les revenus affectés au service de la première moitié des intérêts et de l'amortissement payable intégralement en espèce et au paiement également en espèce du 5 pour cent attaché aux titres représentatifs de la seconde moitié, conformément aux dernières résolutions prises par la Sublime Porte et publiées le 9 de ce mois.

La Banque Impériale Ottomane est également chargée de se concerter avec le Département des Finances pour tous les détails d'exécution propres à assurer l'exact et loyal fonctionnement des mesures financières dont il s'agit.

Vous pouvez porter ces informations à la connaissance du public par la voie de la presse.

(Translation.)

October 14, 1875.

THE Minister of Finance has, by order of the Grand Vizier, just addressed a letter to the Imperial Bank, instructing it in its capacity as State Bank to come to an understanding, through the medium of its London and Paris Committees, with the contractors of the Foreign Loans for the nomination of Syndicates, who are to act in concert with those of Constantinople, under the superintendence and with the co-operation of the Imperial Bank, and to these Syndicates will be paid over the revenues assigned to the service of the first half of the interest and sinking fund payable wholly in specie, as well as to the payment in the same manner in specie of the 5 per cent. attached to the bonds which represent the second half, in conformity with the late resolutions taken by the Sublime Porte, which were published on the 9th instant.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank is also instructed to arrange with the Financial Department as to all such details of execution as may be necessary to ensure the exact and loyal working of the financial measures in question.

You may communicate this information to the public by means of the press.

No. 32.

Mr. Franklin to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

My Lord, *Brighton, October* 24, 1875.

OBSERVING that my letter to your Lordship, dated 7th September (in continuation of the correspondence laid before Parliament), waits some formality in order to be published in turn, I crave permission to supplement it by reference to certain recent notifications of the Ottoman Government.

Details furnished to the "Times" of yesterday state the annual produce of Turkish revenues (£'s Turkish): from tobacco, 1,680,000*l.*; from salt (per Customs), 800,000*l.* Thus is proclaimed the fact, that those two revenues—part only of those assigned with privity of Her Majesty's Government for the security of our Loan (subscribed by express recommendation of that Government in support of British interest),—are productive of nearly fourfold the first charge assigned to us, *i.e.*, 320,000*l.* per half-year until 1886.

It seems that of the said tobacco revenues only 650,000*l.* is to be available for Turkish bondholders indiscriminately. That indicates a reserve of the balance, *i.e.*, 1,030,000*l.*, and the possibility of a sufficient provision thereout in satisfaction of our first charge. There has been a recent declaration of the Porte's consent to any mode of collection and due appropriation of hypothecated revenues compatible with its dignity. Tobacco revenue, as heretofore pointed out, is eminently suited to be so dealt with, and your Lordship is respectfully asked to ascertain whether it is so in our case.

Your Lordship is reminded that ours is not a dubious claim to the interest upon our bonds in the sense disavowed by Lord Palmerston, after subscription to the Loan, but a claim originally recognized to official service for protection of our proprietary rights from confiscation or misappropriation. The papers laid before Parliament point out that recognition, as accorded by your Lordship's predecessors, until found inconvenient. And we continue to maintain that, as involving a sacrifice of vested rights or interests, whether for profit of others, or in subordination to our own national expediency, nothing less than the will of Parliament, duly ascertained, can dispose of such a claim, even if not continuously recognized by a responsible administration. Obviously, nothing less than confiscation would be consequent upon a casting of our priority dues into hotchpot by contrivance of parties who have, in late years, entangled the Porte financially in modes now exposed and denounced.

Referring again to mine of 7th September last, attention is called to the device whereby revenues since collected have been intercepted in behalf of those possessed of coupons maturing on this current month. In practice, like appropriations in contemplation of insolvency are, to say the least, illicit. And what if the agency employed be one recouping itself temporary advances made as means to that end?

It seems proper to explain that while bondholders of other Turkish Loans assemble for concerted action, there exists no administration competent to convene us distinctively. The names of the contractors for our Loan have not been divulged. Messrs. C. Devaux and Company, and the then Ottoman Bank, were simply "Agents to the Contractors." The successors to the original firm of C. Devaux and Company disclaim interest in the matter. The Ottoman Bank has merged into the Imperial Ottoman Bank, dependant upon the Ottoman Government and its Agent in misappropriation of our dues.

We remain unable to obtain any list of *bonâ fide* holders of 1862 bonds (as available in others like cases), and we cannot consent to be outvoted, much less represented, by persons unable or unwilling to adduce proof of *bonâ fide* holdings, and of freedom from the bias attributable to countervailing interest in other Loans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. FRANKLIN.

P.S.—I am warranted in writing your Lordship to announce on our behalf that, in the event of an approved plan for the administration of Turkish finances, which in its *personnel* shall be entitled to our confidence, we shall be found willing to manifest all reasonable forbearance towards a State whose prosperity so nearly concerns us. We abstain meanwhile from mere clamour and from premature suggestions of settlement which, according to usage and common sense, must first be submitted for our acceptance by accredited Representatives of Turkey.

J. A. F.

No. 33.

Mr. Lister to Sir John Lubbock.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 25, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, forwarding copy of a Resolution passed at a meeting of Turkish bondholders held on the 19th instant, and requesting Her Majesty's Government to use their influence with the Ottoman Government on behalf of the bondholders; and in reply I am to state to you that the subject is under consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 34.

Mr. Lister to Mr. Hyde Clarke.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 25, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, forwarding copy of a Resolution which was passed at a meeting of Turkish bondholders held on the 19th instant at the City Terminus Hotel.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 35.

Mr. Lister to Mr. W. H. Clark.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 25, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant on the subject of the Ottoman Loan of 1854; and in reply I am to state to you that the question is under consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 36.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 26.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 18, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed by the Minister of Finance to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, declaring the resolution of the Porte to maintain the rights and privileges of that institution, and requesting it to concert with the contractors of the

foreign loans for the appointment of their representatives to represent them in the Syndicate to receive the revenues which are to guarantee the interests.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Youssouf Pasha to the Directors of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

Messieurs les Directeurs,

VOUS avez constaté par les déclarations de la Sublime Porte la volonté formelle du Gouvernement Impérial de maintenir dans toute leur intégrité les droits et les priviléges de la Banque Impériale Ottomane qui découlent des stipulations de ses Conventions officielles.

Vous avez été non moins complètement édifiés par suite des explications loyales de Son Altesse le Grand Vézir sur la nécessité impérieuse de la mesure financière qui vient d'être décrétée par la Sublime Porte, au sujet du mode de payement des intérêts et de l'amortissement da la Dette Publique de l'Empire, applicable durant une période de cinq ans, à dater de ces jours.

Cette mesure avantageuse pour le Trésor, en ce qu'elle permet d'équilibrer son budget dans un très court espace de temps et à le mettre, dès lors, à l'abri de toutes les préoccupations, de toutes les incertitudes qui ne manqueraient pas de l'assaillir à chaque échéance du coupon et qui aurait fini par ruiner totalement son crédit, au plus grand détriment des créanciers de l'Etat ; cette mesure, dis-je, sauvegarde, d'un autre côté, les intérêts des détenteurs de nos fonds, en ce sens qu'elle leur assure des garanties sérieuses pour le payement de ce qui leur est dû, sans attendre la réalisation d'emprunts onéreux dont l'unique résultat était de grossir de plus en plus le déficit de notre budget et de compromettre gravement l'intérêt et la dignité de la Sublime Porte.

Vous n'ignorez pas non plus, que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est empressé de mettre à la disposition des syndics qui fonctionneront à Constantinople, sous la surveillance et avec la co-opération de la Banque Impériale, les revenus des douanes, du sel et du tabac, ainsi que le tribut d'Egypte, et en cas d'insuffisance les produits de la taxe sur les moutons.

Pour prévenir toute incertitude qui pourrait se produire à cet égard, et pour mettre un moment plustôt à exécution la partie la plus importante de la mesure financière dont il s'agit, à savoir la désignation en chiffres des garanties ci-dessus spécifiées, de manière à assurer la régularité du nouveau mode de payement, je viens, d'ordre de Son Altesse le Grand Vézir, vous prier, Messieurs, de vous concerter immédiatement avec les comités de la Banque à Paris et à Londres, pour qu'ils aient, d'accord avec les contractants de nos emprunts, à désigner, sans retard, leurs représentants dans le Syndicat de Constantinople auquel seront consignés les revenus désignés à titre de garantie.

Vous voudrez bien également dresser, de concert avec mon département, et conformément aux publications officielles, l'état exact des sommes consacrées tant au payement intégral, en espèces, de la première moitié des coupons et amortissements de nos dettes intérieures et extérieures, qu'au payement, également en espèces, des intérêts des nouveaux titres représentant la seconde moitié des dits coupons et amortissements, et enfin le tableau exact et précis des garanties qui deviendront libres le jour de l'extinction du plus prochain emprunt extérieur et qui seront, dès lors, affectées au remboursement du dit 5 pour cent intérêts et amortissement compris, dans le cas où le même 5 pour cent ne pourrait être remboursé à l'expiration des cinq années, le tout en conformité de ce qui a été dit dans la dernière déclaration de la Sublime Porte en date du 9 de ce mois.

La Banque Impériale Ottomane, tout en s'acquittant de cette mission, reste en même temps chargée de proposer à mon département tous les autres détails d'exécution, afin d'assurer le fonctionnement régulier du nouveau service de la dette publique intérieure et extérieure à dater du 1 Janvier, 1876.

Veuillez, &c.

Constantinople, le $\frac{2}{14}$ *Octobre*, 1875.

(Translation.)

Messieurs les Directeurs,

YOU will have taken note from the declarations of the Sublime Porte of the officially expressed intention of the Imperial Government to maintain in all their integrity the rights

and privileges of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which are founded upon the stipulations of its official Conventions.

You will, in consequence of the frank explanations of his Highness the Grand Vizier, have been also thoroughly convinced of the imperative necessity of the financial measures just decreed by the Sublime Porte on the subject of the mode of payment of the interest and sinking fund of the public debt of the Empire, which mode is to be followed for a period of five years, commencing from this time.

This measure, advantageous for the Treasury, in so far that it enables it to balance the Budget in a very short space of time, and consequently frees it from all the anxieties and all the uncertainties which would infallibly have embarrassed it every time that the coupons fell due, and which would have ended by totally ruining its credit, to the great detriment of the creditors of the State; this measure, I say, guarantees on the other hand the interest of the holders of our stock, inasmuch as it secures to them serious guarantees for the payment of that which is due to them, without waiting for the floating of onerous loans, the only result of which was to increase more and more the deficit in our Budget, and seriously to compromise the interest and dignity of the Sublime Porte.

You are also aware that the Imperial Government has hastened to place at the disposition of the Syndics, who are to act at Constantinople under the superintendence and in co-operation with the Imperial Bank, the revenues derived from the Customs, the salt and tobacco taxes, as well as the Egyptian Tribute, and in case these should not suffice, the products of the sheep tax.

In order to obviate all uncertainty which might occur on this subject, and to hasten as much as possible the putting into execution of the most important part of the financial measure in question, namely, the enumeration in figures of the above specified guarantees, so as to ensure the regularity of the new method of payment, I am directed, Gentlemen, by order of his Highness the Grand Vizier, to request that you will at once come to an understanding with the Committees of the Bank at Paris and at London, in order that they may, in concert with the contractors of our loans, nominate without delay their representatives in the Syndicate of Constantinople, to whom the revenues enumerated under the head of guarantees will be paid.

You will also have the goodness to draw up, in concert with my Department, and in conformity with the official publications, an accurate statement of the sums assigned to the integral payment in specie of the first half of the coupons and sinking fund of our internal and foreign debts, as well as to the payment, also in specie, of the interest of the new bonds, which represent the second half of the said coupons and sinking fund; and, lastly, an accurate and detailed tabular statement of the guarantees which will become free on the paying off of the first foreign loan to be redeemed, which guarantees will thenceforth be assigned to the paying off of the said 5 per cent. interest and sinking fund, both included, in case that the said 5 per cent. interest could not be paid off at the expiration of the five years. The whole in conformity with what was laid down in the last declaration of the Sublime Porte, dated the 9th instant.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank, while discharging this duty, is also instructed to propose to my Department all the other details of execution, so as to insure the regular working of the new service of the internal and foreign debt, to date from January 1, 1876.

I beg, &c.

Constantinople, October $\frac{2}{14}$, 1875.

No. 37.

Mr. Palmer to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.

My Lord, 11, *King's Arms Yard, London, October* 26, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of your Lordship, the inclosed copy of Resolutions passed at a meeting of Bondholders of the above Turkish Loans, held at the London Tavern, on the 21st instant.

The Committee appointed at that meeting are very anxious to have an interview with your Lordship in reference to the position of the holders of bonds of these Loans, and will be greatly obliged if you will name an early day to receive a deputation from them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. HOWLEY PALMER, *Chairman.*

Inclosure in No. 37.

Imperial Turkish Six per Cent. Loans of 1854, 1858, *and* 1871.

AT a meeting of Bondholders of the above Loans, held pursuant to public advertisement, at the London Tavern, on Thursday, 21st October, 1875.

EDWARD HOWLEY PALMER, Esq., *in the Chair.*

The following Resolutions were adopted—

Moved by the Chairman, seconded by Sir Philip Rose, Bart.:—

1. That this meeting considers it advisable, for the protection of the interests of Turkish bondholders, to appoint a Committee to act in co-operation with Messrs. Dent, Palmer & Co., in their communications with the Governments of Her Majesty and the Sultan, and otherwise as they may think fit. That the Committee do consist of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, and do invite the representatives of all the Turkish issues to join such Committee :—

Edward Howley Palmer, Esq.
Arthur Otway, Esq.
Admiral Sir Charles Eden, K.C.B.
Sir Philip Rose, Bart.
R. H. Galloway, Esq.

Moved by J. H. Daniell, Esq.; seconded by J. W. Redhouse, Esq.:—

2. That it be an instruction to the Committee, in considering any proposals, or discussing any arrangement with the Turkish Government, to retain inviolate the principle stipulated for in the bonds, in favour of the bondholder, of a remittance half-yearly of the Egyptian Tribute, and other revenues especially hypothecated, to the Bank of England, but subject to a recognition of this principle, this meeting, as representing the bondholders of the Loans of 1854, 1858, and 1871, will be prepared to give most earnest and careful consideration to any proposition that may be made on behalf of the Sultan, and to assist, in the present state of the financial embarrassment of the country, in a manner which may conduce to the consolidation of its financial position.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman.

No. 38.

Mr. Hyde Clarke to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 28.)

Council of Foreign Bondholders, 10, *Moorgate Street,*
London, October 27, 1875.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour inform your Lordship that at a General Meeting of the bondholders of the Ottoman Loan of 1862, held at the Council-house 10, Moorgate Street, on Tuesday the 26th instant, Mr. Francis Bennock in the chair, the following resolutions were unanimously passed :—

Moved by the Chairman; secounded by Mr. C. Surgey; and resolved—

"That in pursuance of the resolution of the general meeting of Turkish Bondholders of Tuesday, the 19th October instant, a committee be nominated by the bondholders of the 1862 Loan for the purpose of protecting their own interests, and of co-operating with the Commissioners for the Loan and with the Council of foreign bondholders."

Resolved—

"That the following be elected the committee, with power to add to their number:— Mr. Joseph Sebag, Rev. W. Hodgson, Mr. G. K. Corfield, Mr. G. E. Peters, Mr. C. F. Hamond, M.P., Mr. Alderman Figgins, Mr. H. Dumphy, Mr. H. W. Coxen, Mr. Wells.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HYDE CLARKE, *Secretary.*

No. 39.

Mr. Lister to Mr. Franklin.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant respecting the Ottoman Loan of 1862.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 40.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1875.

I APPROVE the steps taken by your Excellency to obtain an explanation from the Porte respecting their explanatory note in reference to the reduction of interest upon the various Ottoman loans, as reported in your despatch of the 9th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 41.

Mr. Austin to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 2.)

1, *Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, London, S.W.,*
My Lord, *November* 1, 1875.

IT is with the greatest diffidence that I make the following suggestions:—

The present critical position of the Ottoman Government, and my recent experience during a two years' residence in Constantinople, must form my excuses for venturing to anticipate your Lordship's action, which, I would fain hope, will take or has already taken nearly the same shape as that proposed below.

Let Her Majesty's Ambassador be instructed to represent how the Sultan's Grand Vizier, Mahmoud, with his well-known Russian proclivities, has succeeded in setting the whole of Europe against Turkey, and placing the Empire at the mercy of Russia; how this can be immediately remedied by the dismissal of the Grand Vizier, and the appointment of another (perhaps Midad) in his place.

The result, I have reason to know, will be the immediate dismissal of the Grand Vizier. England will regain the prestige in Turkish affairs it formerly possessed, and the arrangement of the finance question will be accomplished.

The new Grand Vizier acknowledging the default of the State, already made public, will demand a Commission to arrange the partition of the surplus revenue amongst the bondholders.

The Commission will divide the surplus between the several loans in the proportion of their price of issue (for they are really all guaranteed loans), and any additional surplus at the expiration of the five years will be placed to the account of redemption.

Again apologizing for troubling your Lordship, I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES E. AUSTIN.

No. 42.

Decree ordering the Creation of 35,000,000 *Turkish pound Bonds, dated October* 30, 1875. *—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, November* 2, 1875.)

Article 1. IL est créé pour 35,000,000*l.* Turques de titres au porteur jouissant d'un intérêt annuel de 5 pour cent, payable semestriellement et en or à Constantinople, et dans toutes les villes où se fait le service de la Dette Générale 5 pour cent.

Art. 2. Les titres 5 pour cent, ainsi créés, seront remboursés au pair et en or au moyen d'un amortissement annuel de 1 pour cent qui fonctionnera au plus tard à partir du $\frac{1}{13}$ Janvier, 1887, et par voie de tirages au sort.

Art. 3. Les titres seront signés par le Ministre des Finances et revêtus du sceau de

l'Etat. Ils seront, en outre, revêtus, au moment de leur emploi, du visa de l'un des Syndics délégués à cet effet ou de la Banque Impériale Ottomane. Ils seront libellés en Turc, en Anglais et en Français. Ils seront reçus dans les caisses de l'Etat ou des Administrations Publiques comme cautionnement ou garantie au même titre que la Dette Générale 5 pour cent et les obligations des emprunts extérieurs.

Art. 4. Les 35,000,000*l.* Turques de titres 5 pour cent seront divisés en cinq séries de 7,000,000*l.* Turques, chacune correspondant à chacune des cinq années durant lesquelles le service des intérêts et de l'amortissement des dettes intérieures et extérieures doit être effectué, conformément aux mesures décrétées. En conséquence, les titres de chaque série seront, au commencement de chaque année, revêtus du visa mentionné dans l'Article 3. Délivrés en payement de la moitié des coupons et du montant des titres amortis des dettes intérieures et extérieures, chacune des cinq séries sera elle-même subdivisée en deux fractions dont l'une portera intérêt à partir du $\frac{1}{13}$ Janvier et l'autre à partir du $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet.

Art. 5. Le $\frac{1}{13}$ Janvier, 1887, époque où sera repris le service exclusivement en espèces des dettes intérieures et extérieures, le nombre des titres émis de chaque service durant les cinq années écoulées sera vérifié et définitivement arrêté ; et les titres qui n'auraient point été employés, resteront à la souche, et ne pourront point être émis.

Art. 6. La contexture, le libelle, le montant, et les autres conditions de la création et de la délivrance des titres 5 pour cent seront arrêtés par le Ministère des Finances.

Art. 7. Le service des intérêts sur les titres créés par la présente Loi sera assuré par les mêmes garanties que celles affectées au service de la moitié payable en espèces de l'intérêt et de l'amortissement des dettes intérieures et extérieures, et placé sous le même contrôle.

Constantinople, le 30 *Ramazan*, 1292 (*Octobre* 30, 1875).

(Translation.)

Clause 1. The creation is hereby ordered of 35 million Turkish pounds of bonds to bearer, at a yearly interest of 5 per cent., payable half-yearly in gold at Constantinople, and in all towns where payments are made on account of the Five per Cent. General Debt.

Clause 2. The Five per Cent. Bonds thus created will be repaid at par in gold by means of a yearly sinking fund of 1 per cent., which will enter into operation, at the latest, on and after the 1st (13th) of January, 1887, by means of drawings.

Clause 3. The bonds will be signed by the Minister of Finance, and will bear the State Seal. They will, moreover, on being utilized, bear the *visa* of one of the Syndics delegated for the purpose, or that of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. They will be worded in Turkish, English, and French. They will be received at the Treasuries of the State and Public Offices as caution money or guarantee on the same footing as the Five per Cent. General Debt and the bonds of the external Loans

Clause 4. The Five per Cent. Bonds for the 35 million Turkish pounds will be divided into five series of seven millions of Turkish pounds, each corresponding with one of the five years during which the payment of the interest and sinking fund of the internal and external debts is to be effected conformably with the measures which have been decreed. Consequently the bonds of each series will, at the commencement of each year, be furnished with the *visa* mentioned in Clause 3. Being delivered in payment of half of the coupons and of the amount of the redeemed bonds of the internal and external debts, each of the five series will itself be divided into two fractions, whereof one will bear interest from the 1st (13th) of January, and the other from the 1st (13th) of July.

Clause 5. On the 1st (13th) of January, 1887—the date when the payment exclusively in specie of the internal and external debts will be resumed—the number of the bonds issued of each series during the five years that have elapsed will be verified and definitively fixed, and the bonds which may not have been used will remain on the counterfoil and cannot be issued.

Clause 6. The contexture, wording, amount, and other details of the creation and delivery of the Five per Cent. Bonds will be settled by the Minister of Finance.

Clause 7. The payment of the interest upon the bonds created by the present law will be insured by the same guarantees as those provided for the payment of the half payable in specie of the interest and sinking fund of the internal and external debts, and will be placed under the same control.

Constantinople, the 30*th Ramazan*, 1292 (*October* 30, 1875).

No. 43.

Mr. Corfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 4.)

My Lord, 31, *Porchester Square, W., November* 3, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to hand to your Lordship a proposal I submitted to the Council of Foreign bondholders and several Committees of Turkish stocks. It has been received in a conciliatory spirit, and a sincere desire to assist the Ottoman Government out of her difficulties has been evinced by all parties. By this plan the Porte will effect an annual saving of about 6,000,000*l.*, and an ultimate saving of upwards of 40,000,000*l.*, and I feel cconfident that if Sir Henry Elliot were entrusted to bring the proposal to the notice of the Grand Vizier as one likely to be acceptable, it would not only be well received, but would prove to the Porte that Her Majesty's Government, as well as her subjects, were still deeply interested in the permanent welfare of Turkey.

Unless substantial measures of relief are at once submitted to the Finance Minister, it is not likely the late Decree will be amended, or that an International Commission will be assented to by the Porte, with substantial guarantees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. K. CORFIELD.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Proposition.

THAT the Decree issued by the Ottoman Government is not only unwise, but impolitic, in the interests of the Empire, as well as all classes of bondholders, because it will add an enormous amount to the present debt.

2. That the Imperial Government be requested to modify or annul the Decree.

3. To relieve the Empire from any addition to the present debt, it is proposed that the various Governments and the Committees of the Loans should be requested to consider the following definite and practicable scheme, which would avoid all complications, or the issuing of new bonds, and could be carried out without delay.

4. That for the future the drawings on all 6 per cent. loans shall take place once only in each year, from the 2nd of January next.

5. That the interest on the 6 per cent. bonds shall be reduced to 4 per cent. for five years, from the 2nd of January next.

6. That as the 5 per cent. or general debt has no sinking fund, and no special securities, and was issued at such a very much lower price, the interest be reduced to 2½ per cent. on that loan for five years, from the 2nd of January next, as proposed in the Decree.

No. 44.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Hyde Clarke.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 4, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, reporting the Resolutions passed at a general meeting of the bondholders of the Ottoman Loan of 1862.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 45.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Corfield.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 5, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, communicating to his Lordship a proposal submitted by you to the Council of Bondholders to relieve the Turkish Government in their present position toward the bondholders of the various Ottoman Loans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 46.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Austin.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1875.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, containing suggestions in regard to the various Ottoman Loans.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 47.

Extract from the "Times" of November 6, 1875.

THE TURKISH LOANS.—Yesterday an influential deputation of the Committee representing the Bondholders of the Ottoman Loans of 1854, 1858, and 1871 waited on Lord Derby by appointment at the Foreign Office. The deputation consisted of Mr. E. H. Palmer (Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, member of the firm of Dent, Palmer, and Co., agents of the above-mentioned loans, and chairman of the Committee), Mr. A. Otway, Admiral Sir C. Eden, Sir Philip Rose, Mr. R. H. Galloway, Admiral Sir A. Slade, Mr. H. Oppenheim, Mr. J. Staniforth, and Mr. G. H. Palmer. Mr. H. Freshfield (Messrs. Freshfield and Williams), Solicitor, and Mr. J. R. Lloyd, Secretary to the Committee, were also present.

The deputation was introduced by

Mr. E. H. Palmer, who said their object in seeking the interview was not for the purpose of advocating any sectional interests, nor did they think of asking Her Majesty's Government and the Government of France to interfere generally in this Turkish question; but they thought, or rather hoped, that if they could show by the Governments of England and France acting strictly within the terms of the Convention of 1855, and that alone they could materially aid very large classes of English and French subjects who were interested in this question, they would not refuse to lend their aid. The ground of their complaint was, not that Turkey had incurred obligations which she was unable to fulfil—that was a misfortune which the creditors must be prepared to deal with—but that the Turkish Government, in an arbitrary manner, had taken upon itself, without any communication with the creditors of the country, to alienate hypothecations given in the most sacred manner possible from the loans issued from 1854 to the present time, and receiving the benefit of the value of those hypothecations when her credit was better than it was now, and taking those hypothecations—those securities—to put the loans so raised upon a dead level with obligations which she had contracted which were without any security at all. He thought this was a piece of injustice which, as an abstract proposition, his Lordship would say was not to be defended.

Lord Derby.—If I do not misunderstand you, your objection is the placing of the unsecured debts on the same footing with your securities.

Mr. Palmer.—Precisely, and not only that. The securities were positively taken away from the secured debts to pay unsecured creditors. It was perfectly true that the Turkish Government had stated that the Loan of 1855 was to be excepted from the arrangement so far as the amount of interest to be paid on it and the sinking fund were concerned; but it was not to be excepted from the alienation of securities assigned to it. In 1855, when the Convention was entered into between England, France, and the Sultan, the security given for the interest and sinking fund of the 1855 Loan was, first, the surplus of the tribute of Egypt, after the 1854 Loan had been provided for, and the Customs of Smyrna and Syra. These were the securities specially assigned by the IIIrd Article of the Convention for that loan, and the Bank of England was made a party to the transaction, for, in August 1855, a "tribute account" was opened, under the authority of the contractors for the 1854 Loan, and the whole tribute was passed to an account headed "Egyptian Tribute for the Loans of 1854 and 1855." The Governor of the Bank then wrote to the Turkish Ambassador, explaining the nature of the account opened, and the Turkish Ambassador confirmed it, stating that it was quite in accordance with the terms of the Convention. That mode of applying the tribute had been carried out with great detail from 1854 to the present time—that was to say, that the Bank of England would not part with any portion of that tribute until the 1854 Loan was provided for. On more than one occasion the Turkish Government had desired to appropriate a larger sum than was strictly applicable at the moment for the 1855 Loan, but the Bank of England had

invariably declined to allow it. It was a trust which the Bank had accepted, and which it strictly carried out so far as these loans were concerned. If, therefore, the arrangement which the Turkish Government proposed were carried out, the Egyptian tribute would go to Constantinople and form part of the fund to pay the interest which it was proposed to pay on the whole of the loans. He thought it would be difficult to say how far the English and French Governments were bound to adhere to that security. He then proceeded to quote from speeches of Lord Palmerston in the House of Commons, and of Lord Clarendon in the House of Lords, in which the securities to which he had alluded were specially mentioned as the ground on which they urged Parliament to pass the Bill; and he thought there was no doubt the same representations were made to the French Legislature by M. Drouyn de Lhuys.

Lord Derby.—Did not that debate arise, not upon the question of the Loan of 1854, but upon the question of the guaranteed Loan of 1855?

Mr. Palmer.—Yes, certainly it did.

Lord Derby.—As regards the Loan of 1855, the Turkish Government does not interfere with that in any way so far as the payment of interest is concerned; and, therefore, so far as that loan is concerned, it seems to me, speaking my own personal opinions, that it is entirely a question between the two Governments.

Mr. Palmer.—The English and French Governments have guaranteed this loan (the 1855 Loan), and, if the interest be not paid, the British public will have to pay it. If you allow the special securities to be taken away, you have simply a promise to pay.

Lord Derby.—That is a question entirely distinct from the question of the unguaranteed loans.

Mr. Palmer, continuing, said they were merely talking of the 1855 Loan, and if the security for that loan were diverted, the Government would allow the security which had been put before Parliament as the security for the loan to be taken away; and this, he submitted, would be a great wrong on England and France. Therefore, he urged the Government to assist in forcing the Turkish Government to make another arrangement than that which they had proposed. Looking at the circumstances under which the Act of Parliament was passed and the representations made at the time, he thought it would be rather a strong measure if England consented to the security being now diverted without any good consideration. What they asked was that the Government would express an opinion through Sir Henry Elliot that this measure, involving the question of the diversion of hypothecations, could never lead to any amicable arrangement between Turkey and her creditors, and that so far as the two Governments were concerned they must decline to allow their securities to be diverted or disposed of otherwise than was originally agreed upon. It might be said that up to the present the Turkish Government had not diverted the tribute, and they had no notice of any *Iradé* having been issued to the Khedive to that effect; but he contended that the terms of the Decree could read in no other way than thatthe Egyptian tribute was to form part of the purposes of that Decree. They had received a letter from the Turkish Ambassador inviting them to send a member to Constantinople to act upon the Syndicate for the distribution of the money; but they had declined to do so.

Mr. Otway said he would confine his remarks entirely to the tribute Loan of 1854 and to the connexion which Her Majesty's Government of the day had with that Loan, and he thought his observations could not be made in a more appropriate place, as it was from that Department, if not from that room, that encouragement was given to the public to subscribe to the Loan. He found in a prospectus issued by Sir Isaac Goldsmid and Mr. Palmer a statement, and he understood that they were authorized by Lord Clarendon to inform the public that,—

"This Loan is not only charged on the general revenue of Turkey, but is specially secured, principal and interest, by the assignment of 30,000,000 piastres (282,000*l.* sterling) tribute paid by the Pasha of Egypt to His Majesty the Sultan by virtue of the Treaty of 1811, contracted under the sanction of the Great Powers of Europe. This tribute is to be remitted half-yearly direct from the Pasha of Egypt to the Agents in London."

Why, he asked, did a Minister of the great experience and high character and position of Lord Clarendon take a course so unusual as to encourage the British public to subscribe to this Loan? Simply because he knew it was to be raised for a great purpose and that national interests were involved in its success; and this was to be found in the discussions in Parliament on the subject. He distinctly remembered the language used by Lord Palmerston when discussing the Convention of 1855, and that was that Turkey should be aided to obtain the money to enable her to carry on the war she was engaged on in conjunction with England and France. It seemed to him that encouragement had been given by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and cognizance had been

taken of the Loan by the Prime Minister and by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who pressed Parliament to sanction the Convention. It was said that Governments were not bound to consider the interests of individuals, and that, so long as the State was not damnified, that was all they had to consider; but he did not think this doctrine would find acceptance with his Lordship. The honour of our statesmen was a cherished possession, and his Lordship knew how essential it was in Parliamentary Government that faith should always be placed in Ministerial declarations. He could not but feel that Her Majesty's Government now was connected with this Tribute Loan by the language held by Her Majesty's Government in 1855. There was another point to which he desired to refer. His Lordship was, of course, better informed, but he had heard that the scheme for arrangement of Turkey with her creditors rested on Vizirial notification, and that there was no *Iradé* of the Sultan giving to the Decree that high sanction which was ordinarily the case in Turkey. Now, if that were so, any representation coming from Her Majesty's Ambassador would be given with greater facility, because the dignity of the Sultan would not be in any way compromised. Whether that were so or not, however, he could not but feel that representations made by Her Majesty's Ambassador—especially if they were made in conjunction with the French Minister at Constantinople—pointing out the injuries which would be done alike to British and Turkish interests, would meet with success, and therefore it was that he very respectfully urged upon his Lordship that the necessary instructions might be given to the English Ambassador.

Sir Philip Rose said, after the observations which had dropped from his Lordship, he wished to make a few remarks, He understood his Lordship that as to the guaranteed Loan of 1855, it was a mere question between the Governments of Turkey on the one hand and England and France on the other; but he thought his Lordship, on further consideration, would hardly support that view, as it would amount to this—that the Governments of England and France would have to connive with Turkey to the injury of the 1854 bondholder, and say to it—"Provided in some way or other you can arrange that our guarantee shall not become affected, we are indifferent to what you may do in this matter."

Lord Derby dissented.

Sir Philip Rose, continuing, said he rather gathered from his Lordship that it was a question not with the bondholder, but simply between the two Governments. Now, the position of the English Government was that of having guaranteed interest on the second mortgage of the Egyptian tribute—the first mortgage having been distinctly recognized in the second mortgage as a prior incumbrance—and the protection of the English and French Governments being the surplus which remained over and above the amount of the tribute appropriated to the first Loan. It was important that his Lordship should know what the practice had hitherto been. The tribute had been remitted, and continued to be remitted, by fortnightly instalments to the Bank of England. The coupons of the 1854 Loans were payable in April and October, and those of the 1855, or Guaranteed Loan, in February and August. The practice of the Bank had been to calculate the amount required for the half-yearly interest on the 1854 Loan, giving credit that the fortnightly instalments would continue to be remitted up to the end of the half-year; and to appropriate the surplus to the service of the Guarantee Loan. But they could hardly suppose the Bank of England would make any such anticipations in future, and the result would be, unless the Bank had in hand sufficient to pay the whole of the interest of the 1854 Loan falling due in April, that the interest on the Guaranteed Loan would not be paid out of the tribute, and the Governments of England and France would have to pay it. No interest on the second mortgage could be paid until the interest on the first had been satisfied, and if the Bank were willing so to apply any portion of the tribute, the bondholders of 1854, for whom the Bank of England were trustees, would go to the Court of Chancery to prevent any application of interest to the second mortgagees until the first had been satisfied. In the face of such a notice as had been issued at Constantinople—that the security given to the English and French Governments was to be diverted to other purposes—they thought they were entitled to ask his Lordship the course which the English Government intended to pursue. Did they intend to hold the Turkish Government to the performance of its obligations? If so, the whole of the tribute must continue to be sent to the Bank of England, and the interest of the 1854 bondholders was secure. They thought they were entitled to ask the Government whether they intended to allow the Turkish Government to make away with their security. They asked further, that in communicating with the Turkish Government, the English Government would express an opinion that the Decree recently issued was not one which was likely to carry out the objects which the Turkish Government had in view. They believed that a much better arrangement could be made in the interests of Turkey and its creditors, and

they were prepared to meet the Turkish Government in a fair and equitable spirit. Turkey admitted that she could pay 7,000,000*l.* for interest and sinking fund, and they believed an appropriation of this amount could be made which would save the credit of Turkey, meet the wishes of the bondholders, and, to a certain extent, have regard to existing hypothecations, and they should be prepared, if supported by the English Government, to send out to Constantinople some person of high standing and ability to enter into personal negotiations with the Turkish Government to that end.

Mr. Stainforth said the statements submitted to his Lordship in support of the loans secured on the apothecation of the Egyptian tribute constituted a case which, in the opinion of business men and lawyers, was absolutely unassailable. He would deal with the general question as to the special claims which the bondholders might have on Her Majesty's Government for strong moral support at Constantinople. He had heard the question discussed as to how far the Government could intervene. Now, the case they were laying before his Lordship was so strong that they believed the Government had no option but to support the bondholders in the strongest manner. Mr. Otway had read the declarations of eminent statesmen (Lords Palmerston and Clarendon) in reference to the Loan of 1854, and he would now call his Lordship's attention to the prospectus of the Loan of 1862, issued by Messrs. C. Devaux and Co. and the Ottoman Bank for eight millions. He found in that prospectus a letter from Lord Russell to Mr. Bruce, and it was not surreptitiously published, but was inserted by permission of Lord Russell, who was at that time Minister for Foreign Affairs. He then proceeded to read the letter, which was as follows :—

"Sir, "*Foreign Office, March* 15, 1862.

"When I had the pleasure of receiving you and Mr. G. G. Glyn at the Foreign Office a week ago, I informed you that if the Sultan's Commissioners or Agents in this country should be successful in obtaining a loan, Her Majesty's Government, anxious for the well-being and prosperity of Turkey, would be ready to send one or two gentlemen in whom they had confidence to assist the Sultan's Ministers in the due application of the proceeds of the loan to the extinction of the paper money and the funding of the floating debt. I stated that Her Majesty's Government would take an interest in this operation from their feelings of friendship towards Turkey. I said the contractors of the loan might see in such mission a further security against the misapplication of the present loan and the loss of credit which would ensue. I am happy to inform you that Lord Hobart has consented to proceed to Constantinople for six months for the purposes I have indicated.

"I am, &c.

(Signed) "Russell."

Previous also to the publication of the prospectus there was a debate in the House of Commons, in which Mr. Layard, the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, expressed himself in a manner so hopeful as to the resources of Turkey, so confiding in its integrity, that the loan, which had been looked upon with so much disfavour that the contractors made it a condition of issuing it at the last moment that Lord Russell's letter should be inserted in the prospectus, was actually subscribed five times over. The mission of Lord Hobart and Mr. Foster to Constantinople, with the countenance of the Government and under their special sanction, caused another issue of eight millions in the following year to be fully subscribed by the public. He held that with such direct encouragement on the part of the Government of this country to the public to subscribe to these loans on political grounds, the Government could not now turn round and refuse its support in obtaining redress. Nor, he contended, should the statement pass without contradiction as to the so-called "usurious" interest of these loans. Such an argument would hold if the bondholders were not prepared to come to terms with the Turkish Government on the basis of reduction of interest. So soon as the Porte showed its inclination to act fairly by withdrawing their nefarious Decree, the bondholders would be prepared, in combination with the Porte, to consent to such a scheme as would give relief to the Porte, and justice to the bondholders. On these grounds they maintained that the moral influence of Her Majesty's Government could not be withheld, and they had confidence that his Lordship would take that view in communicating with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

Mr. Palmer, in reply to a question from Lord Derby, said in dealing with the Loans of 1854 and 1855 they upset the principles of the Decree.

Some further conversation ensued between Lord Derby, Mr. Palmer, and Sir Philip Rose on various points; and Mr. Freshfield, in reply to an inquiry of Lord Derby's, read the following letter from Lord Granville to Musurus Pasha with reference to the loan of that year, in which the Loan of 1854 is specifically referred to :—

"M. l'Ambassadeur, "*Foreign Office, August* 7, 1871.

"With reference to the conversation which I had with your Excellency on the subject of the loan which you informed me your Government had contracted on favourable terms with some English capitalists, I have now the honour to acquaint your Excellency that I have been informed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that as long as the Treasury priority of charges in connection with the Loans of 1854 and 1855 remain secure and valid, they have no objections to offer to the conditions of the new loan.

"I am, &c.

(Signed) "GRANVILLE."

Lord Derby then replied. He said,—I do not think you will expect any definite or final answer from me to day, because the questions you have raised are rather difficult and complicated. Some details have been brought before me of which I was not formerly aware, and I need not say that action in matters of this kind requires the utmost caution on the one hand and on the other hand there is nothing very urgent, I apprehend, in point of time; because I am afraid, whatever may be said or done, the position of Turkey at the present time is such that not very much can be expected in the way of payment. I need not remind you that the general, indeed the invariable, rule of late years by which the Government has been guided, is to abstain from official interference in the case of foreign loans. There have been many cases where the Foreign Office has been appealed to—in the case of Spain, which repudiated the interest on its debt; the case of Greece, which has never paid anything from the foundation of the kingdom; and the case of various South American States, which in some cases have repudiated their debts, after paying interest for a year or two; and many other cases of bankruptcy and repudiation have been brought before this Office; but in all these cases our invariable rule has been to give moral and unofficial support where we thought it was merited or where we thought it would be useful, but to avoid committing ourselves to any official demand. That being our rule, and, as I believe, accepted by public opinion, I need not take up your time by justifying the principle. I think the principle is a sound one, however, because if it were understood in this country that persons lending money to foreign States would be supported by the official assistance of their own Government, the obvious effect of that would be to enable the poorest States, and those which have the least credit, to get money on much better terms than they otherwise would. The question which arises here, is whether any peculiar or exceptional circumstances exist in regard to these Turkish loans. Now, no doubt we have guaranteed Turkey, but that does not constitute an exceptional circumstance, for we have done the same thing for Greece; we have fought for Turkey, but that cannot be looked to as forming an exceptional claim, for we have done the same thing for Spain, and possibly for other countries also. The question which really does create some difficulty in this case is the language which has been held by some of our public men in Parliament in connection with these loans, but I do not think it goes so far as a guarantee in any case. I have looked carefully to what has been said by Lords Palmerston, Clarendon, and Russell, and though I do not hesitate to say, with all deference to those eminent men, that I think in some cases they went farther in giving a moral support to the Government of Turkey as borrowers than was altogether expedient, yet I do not think they ever held language which would reasonably justify the expectation that the Government would interfere forcibly to compel the payment of any debt in case of default. I think it is to be lamented that in regard to some of these debts the British Government took the part it did; at the same time, to put it at the highest, I think the part which the British Government took does not go further than to pledge those who now represent that Government to use such moral influence as they can bring to bear to secure its creditors. I, therefore, think that anything in the nature of an official demand would be unadvisable and contrary to our policy. I need not tell you that there is a strong sympathy on the part of the Government for the body whom you represent, and I am perfectly well aware that the action of the Turkish Government has inflicted very severe loss on many who could very ill bear it, and from no fault of their own; and we are anxious to do whatever is reasonably possible to assist those who appeal to us on this subject. There are various questions in connexion with the Loans of 1854 and 1855 which will require careful examination, and I am not willing—nor, indeed, am I able—to give you a definite expression of opinion on them to-day. These questions will all be carefully considered. All I ask you to remember now is, that whatever is reasonably possible for you we will do, subject, however, to this—that whatever support we give must be unofficial, not official, in character.

The deputation then thanked his Lordship and withdrew.

No. 48.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 6, 1875.

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, an extract from the "Times" of this day containing an account of an interview which I held yesterday with a Deputation of the bondholders of the Ottoman Loans of 1854, 1858, and 1871.

The report appears to me to be generally correct, but I observe that no mention is made of my having pointed out that the remission of the Egyptian Tribute to the Bank of England in payment of the interest on the guaranteed loan of 1855, although arranged between the Governments concerned, was not a Treaty engagement, the Treaty of June 27, 1855, having provided, in the 3rd Article, that,—

"The interest and sinking fund of the said loan shall form a charge on the whole revenues of the Ottoman Empire, and specially on the annual amount of the tribute of Egypt which remains over and above the part thereof appropriated to the first loan, and moreover on the Customs of Smyrna and Syria.

"His Imperial Majesty the Sultan engages that he will cause to be remitted to the Bank of England, on or before the 25th of June and 25th of December in each year, the full amount of one half-year's interest and sinking fund on the whole amount of the said loan to be raised under the conjoint guarantee of Her Britannic Majesty and of His Majesty the Emperor of the French, or so much thereof as may be raised, until the whole capital borrowed shall be repaid."

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 49.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 27, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a further Memorandum issued by the Porte upon the late financial measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Memorandum addressed by the Sublime Porte to Turkish Representatives abroad, dated October 20, 1875.

LES mesures financières qui viennent d'être édictées par la Sublime Porte étaient commandées par l'impérieuse nécessité de mettre un terme au système des emprunts onéreux et périodiques destinés à combler les déficits budgétaires ; système qui, s'il était continué quelque temps encore, aurait amené inévitablement la ruine de l'Etat et celles de ses créanciers. La Sublime Porte, pour conjurer ce péril évident et certain, se trouvait en présence de deux problèmes à résoudre. Le premier était d'arriver à établir l'équilibre entre ses recettes et ses dépenses ; le second, d'éteindre le déficit actuel et de combler les déficits qui devaient encore se produire dans les années suivantes, jusqu'à ce que les mesures adoptées pour équilibrer le budget aient produit tout leur effet.

La première partie de ce programme déjà en voie d'exécution doit être accomplie en peu d'années par le développement des ressources du pays, par les réformes à introduire dans les diverses branches de l'Administration en vue surtout du progrès de l'agriculture, par la transformation de certaines contributions, par l'augmentation constante des revenus de l'Etat, conséquences naturelles de l'accroissement du bien-être des populations agricoles, enfin par un contrôle plus attentif et plus efficace de l'administration financière. Mais ce résultat serait illusoire, si, dans cinq années, époque où la balance exacte entre les recettes et les dépenses sera obtenue, le Gouvernement Impérial se trouvait en présence d'un arriéré composé du déficit actuel et des déficits qui doivent se produire encore durant cette période de restauration financière ; c'est-à-dire, si la seconde partie du programme restait sans solution.

Dans cette situation, la Sublime Porte, répudiant l'expédient des emprunts temporaires

ou à long terme, qui, loin d'éteindre sa dette, aurait pour effet de la doubler en moins de cinq années ; repoussant également la ressource extrême de la réduction de la rente, qui, dans la mesure où elle aurait dû être opérée, eût constitué une perte définitive pour ses créanciers, rejetant enfin toute combinaison d'impôts extraordinaires, qui aurait tari les sources les plus fécondes de la richesse nationale, a résolu de demander à ses créanciers eux-mêmes, c'est-a-dire à la partie la plus intéressée, les moyens de restaurer les finances de l'Empire.

Le sacrifice que le Gouvernement Impérial leur impose consiste simplement à prêter à leur débiteur, à un intérêt avantageux, une partie, soit la moitie de la somme qui doit leur être payée annuellement, sous forme d'intérêts et d'amortissement et cela durant une période de cinq années seulement. Le montant du prêt sera représenté par un titre portant intérêts à raison de 5 pour cent l'an.

Le paiement de la première moitié, payable intégralement en espèces, et le service des intérêts attachés aux titres représentatifs de la seconde moitié, également payable en espèces, seront assurés au moyen de revenus spéciaux, qui seront consignés entre les mains de syndics sous la surveillance et avec la coopération de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

Si, à l'expiration de ces cinq années, le 5 pour cent en question n'était pas remboursé, il y aurait prolongation de délai, aux mêmes conditions d'intérêt, c'est-à-dire, à raison de 5 pour cent de l'an, jusqu'au jour de l'extinction de celui des emprunts extérieurs dont le terme est le plus prochain, et les revenus affectés à cet emprunt, devenus libres, seraient consacrés à l'amortissement de ces titres.

En dehors des dispositions précises qui viennent d'être rappelées, il n'est porté aucune atteinte aux engagements du Gouvernement Impérial envers les tiers. Les droits et priviléges concédés à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, en retour de ses propres obligations, seront respectés, et les opérations nécessaires à la mise à exécution des mesures financières actuelles seront concertées avec cet établissement et exécutées avec son concours dans toutes les circonstances où ses services doivent être utilisés.

Par cette combinaison, la seconde partie du problème qui s'imposait à la sollicitude, à la prévoyance, et à la loyauté du Gouvernement Impérial, se trouve accomplie, non au moyen de réductions arbitraires infligeant aux détenteurs de fonds Ottomans une perte définitive, non au moyen d'un impôt permanent sur la rente déguisant une réduction effective, mais au moyen d'un simple ajournement.

Le sacrifice momentané qui est imposé aux créanciers de l'Etat, devenus prêteurs de la moitié des sommes qui doivent leur être payées annuellement durant cinq ans, est largement compensé par la certitude qu'ils acquièrent du paiement régulier de la seconde moitié et de l'établissement prochain de l'équilibre budgétaire, seul gage véritablement sérieux et incontestable de la fidèle exécution des engagements financiers d'un Gouvernement.

La Sublime Porte retire de cette mesure loyalement conçue, et qui sera loyalement exécutée, des avantages non moins sensibles et non moins évidents, puisqu'elle conjure le danger, chaque jour plus imminent, d'une suspension forcée de l'exécution de ses engagements, en se procurant, sans frais et sans intermédiaires, près de ses créanciers eux-mêmes, c'est-à-dire, de ceux qui sont les plus intéressés au salut des finances, une somme de 35,000,000 de livres Turques, à des conditions d'intérêt et de remboursement exceptionnellement favorables, et telles que le travail de l'équilibre budgétaire ne peut en être ni entravé ni ralenti.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, ainsi délivré de toute préoccupation financière, et enfin déchargé du lourd fardeau qui lui imposait annuellement le système des emprunts successifs, pourra donner tous ses soins et consacrer toutes ses forces aux réformes administratives et au développement de l'agriculture, du commerce, et d'industrie de l'Empire.

(Translation.)

THE financial measures which have just been decreed by the Sublime Porte were called for by the imperative necessity of putting a stop to the system of onerous and periodical loans destined to meet the deficits in the Budgets; a system which, had it been continued a little longer, would infallibly have brought about the ruin of the State, as well as that of its creditors. The Sublime Porte, in order to avert this palpable and certain danger, found itself in the presence of two problems which it had to resolve. The first was the establishment of an equilibrium between its receipts and expenditure; the second, the extinction of the actual deficit, and a provision for the deficits which are bound to recur in the following years, until the time when the measures adopted for balancing the Budget shall have produced all their effect.

The first part of this programme, already commenced, will be accomplished in a few years by the development of the resources of the country, by the reforms which are to be

introduced into the different branches of the Administration, more especially with a view to the improvements in agriculture by a change in the nature of certain contributions, by the constant increase in the revenues of the State, which is a natural consequence of an improvement in the condition of the agricultural population, and, lastly, by a stricter and more efficacious control on the part of the financial administration. But this result would be deceptive, if, after five years, the time when the exact balance between the receipts and expenses will be obtained, the Imperial Government should find itself in the presence of arrears, consisting of the present deficit and those which will still occur during this period of financial reform, that is to say, if no solution were found for the second part of the programme.

Finding itself in this position, the Sublime Porte repudiates the expedient of loans, whether temporary or for a longer period, which, far from extinguishing its debt, would result in doubling it in less than five years; it repudiates, also, the last resource of a reduction of the interest, which, in the way it would have to be carried out, would constitute a real loss to its creditors; it rejects, lastly, every plan for extraordinary taxes, as sapping the most productive sources of the national wealth, and has determined to ask from its creditors themselves, that is to say, from the persons the most interested, the means for re-establishing the finances of the empire.

The sacrifice which the Imperial Government imposes on them consists simply in a loan to their debtor, at an advantageous rate of interest, of a part, say the half, of the sum which, in the shape of interest and sinking fund, was annually due to them; and even this for a period of five years only. The amount of the loan will be represented by a bond bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

The payment of the first half, payable entirely in specie, and the service of the interest due on the bonds which represent the second half, likewise payable in specie, will be guaranteed by means of special revenues, which will be consigned into the hands of Syndics, under the superintendence and with the co-operation of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

If, at the expiration of these five years, the 5 per cent. in question should not be repaid, there will be a prolongation of the delay under the same conditions as to interest, that is to say, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, until the extinction of that one of the foreign loans whose term of redemption falls earliest, when the revenues assigned to that loan, being freed, will be applied to the paying off of these bonds.

Apart from the special dispositions enumerated above, the engagements of the Imperial Government towards third parties will remain intact. The rights and privileges conceded to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, in return for its own obligations, will be respected, and the operations necessary for the execution of the present financial measures will be concerted with that establishment and executed with its co-operation in all cases where its services ought to be employed.

By this combination, the second part of the problem, which was a charge on the solicitude, the foresight, and loyalty of the Porte, is accomplished, not by means of arbitrary reductions, inflicting a definitive loss on the holders of Ottoman funds,—not by means of a permanent tax on the stock, disguising a real reduction,—but by means of a simple postponement.

The momentary sacrifice which is imposed on the creditors of the State, who become lenders of half the amount which ought to be paid annually to them during five years, is largely compensated by the certainty which they acquire for the regular payment of the second half, and the early establishment of a balance in the Budget, which is the only really serious and incontestable security for the faithful execution of the financial engagements of a Government.

The Sublime Porte derives from this measure, which has been loyally conceived and will be loyally carried out, advantages not less important and not less evident, since it averts the danger, every day more imminent, of a forced suspension of the execution of its engagements, by procuring, without expenses and without intermediate agents, from its creditors themselves, that is to say, from those who are most interested in a healthy state of the finances, a sum of 35,000,000 Turkish pounds, upon exceptionally favourable conditions of interest and repayment, and such that the task of balancing the Budget will be neither impeded nor retarded.

The Imperial Government, thus freed from all financial anxiety, and relieved at last from the heavy burden which forced upon it annually the system of successive loans, will be able to give all its attention and devote all its energies to administrative reforms, and to the development of the agriculture, commerce, and manufactures of the empire.

No. 50.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 7.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 28, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship, under flying seal, a letter which I have addressed to Mr. Hyde Clarke, the Secretary of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, in reply to a letter, of which the copy is inclosed, relative to the reduction of the interest upon the Turkish Public Debt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Mr. Hyde Clark to Sir H. Elliot.

Council of Foreign Bondholders, 10, *Moorgate Street, London,*
Excellency, *October* 9, 1875.

THE receipt in London of telegrams announcing ambiguous measures with regard to the Public Debt, have been received with deep concern by the holders of the 1858 and 1862 Loans.

Already many of their influential constituents have called upon the Joint Commissions for the 1858 and 1862 Loans to execute the functions devolving upon them in pursuance of the Convention between the Ottoman Government and the bondholders.

These loans, as your Excellency is well aware, have been raised under exceptional stipulations, under which the Government has voluntarily and publicly acknowledged the right of the bondholders, in case of any infringement, to enter on the receipt of the revenues pledged for their fulfilment and to put the Syndicates in operation.

The rights acquired by the holders of the 1858 and 1862 Loans under the respective Conventions the Joint Commissions are instructed to maintain, and I have the honour to request that your Excellency will kindly use the means in your power to protect the rights of the anxious bondholders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HYDE CLARKE, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Sir H. Elliot to Mr. Hyde Clarke.

Sir, *Therapia, October* 28, 1875.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, respecting the measures adopted by the Porte in regard to the Public Debt of Turkey.

Upon being made acquainted with these measures I pointed out to the Turkish Government that certain specified sources of revenue were assigned as guarantees for some of the foreign loans, but I cannot take any official steps in regard to them without instructions from Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 51.

Mr. W. Smith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 8.)

My Lord, *London, November* 6, 1875.

I TRUST your Lordship will not think too much liberty has been taken in addressing these few, but sad, sentiments.

I noticed in to-day's (Saturday) "Standard" that a deputation of Turkish bondholders waited upon your Lordship on Friday, for the long-desired interview and assistance of your Lordship's co-operation with the Turkish bondholders of the various guaranteed loans. After thirty years' toil and hard work, I unfortunately invested all my savings (over 3,000*l.*) in the Turkish loan of 1862, and many other friends and relations invested larger and smaller amounts in the same loan.

I beg to call your Lordship's attention to the very fact, when that loan was first issued, every encouragement was given to the public in England, as being a sure and safe investment; it was stated to be as good as guaranteed Government property.

Certain revenues from the customs, such as on salt, tobacco, &c., were specially mentioned and put aside as a guarantee to meet the dividends of the 1862 Loan. The revenues from this source alone were more than double to meet the 1862 dividends. In fact, the (London Exchange) city merchants and brokers generally looked upon the loan as safe and sound property for investment, and that being the general opinion, I was induced to part with my hard earnings. Why should we be robbed by a Monarch like the Sultan of Turkey, whose country is full of riches, if properly developed? We all know your Lordship has great influence and mighty power abroad, and we hope and trust your Lordship feels for us and our ruinous position.

A married man like myself, wife and large family, and being almost blind through natural causes, to have the bread snatched away from us by Turks, is most piteous to witness. Several with whom I am connected are sufferers, and are most destitute. Not being in a position to assist, we have to appeal to the kind feelings and charity of our neighbours for assistance.

I draw your Lordship's attention to that horrible Crimean War, when our brothers and relations suffered death to protect the Turkish Empire. Are we to fight for that man of no principle, the Sultan of Turkey?

I believe the English Government has entered into a Treaty to protect Turkey in case of war. I fully am of opinion, as well as many thousands concerned, that the bondholders have a right to ask the Government to intercede on their behalf. Matters look very gloomy in the East, and England might be called upon, sooner or later, to hasten troops to that land where our monies have gone, which would make affairs more distracted than ever.

We hope and trust your Lordship will investigate, with the same partiality, the particulars of the 1862 Loan, and endeavour to bring the Sultan of Turkey to his right senses.

Your Lordship has the unlimited power to act and carry out matters, in which the bondholders and country generally have every confidence in your Lordship's directions, sound and honest judgment. Trusting your Lordship will try to protect us from utter ruin, I remain, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM SMITH.

No. 52.

Mr. Franklin to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 8.)

My Lord, *Old Steine, Brighton, November* 7, 1875.

ATTENTION has been directed to observations made at an audience accorded by your Lordship on the 5th instant, to representatives of a section of Turkish bondholders, and I beg leave to ask for an early intimation of whether your Lordship considers it requisite or expedient that a like audience be accorded to accredited representatives of bondholders of the 1862 Loan specifically.

In my letter of 24th October last was indicated the anomalous position of *bonâ fide* subscribers to that loan denied the usual facilities for recognizing each other. Since then sundry miscellaneous assemblages under tutelage of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, open indiscriminately to influences adverse to priority of hypothecations, have pretended to nominate representatives of special interests, which interests have heretofore been damnified by like pretensions. A protest against such pretensions was addressed to the parties so nominated, under date of 3rd November instant, and your Lordship is relied upon for requiring production of that protest if asked to receive those parties as representatives of the interests heretofore left to my advocacy.

In case that an audience be not required, those on whose behalf I have acted hitherto remain content to hope and expect that Her Meajsty's Government will exercise such necessary and legitimate influence as may promote just and impartial administration of Turkish revenues pledged with immediate privity of Her Majesty's Government to those induced thereby to sustain with their funds the interests of Great Britain in the Ottoman Empire. As already intimated, the assignees of those revenues, if appealed to by proper agents, will entertain reasonable propositions, but they cannot be expected to submit to confiscation of their legal and equitable rights under dictations of the financial manipulators

who, after betrayal of the Porte with its present difficulties, claim now to be absolute masters of its resources.

By way of illustrating the damages of the situation let it be supposed:—

That the Ottoman Bank, or some other organization, become custodian of the bonds of the 30,000,000*l.* stock just created.

That allies of that Bank in Stock Exchanges and in Councils of Bondholders procure negotiability for such bonds.

That unissued batches of the bonds can be held in lieu for balances claimable from the Porte, or for traffic in cheapened debts of the Porte, capable of being dealt with preferentially.

That Turkish revenues, whether or not assigned for ample consideration, remain subject to be intercepted for service of bonds of the latest issue on usurious terms; and,

That the market can be fed with bonds so pawned and bolstered in price by misappropriate assignments.

If the useful investigations of the House of Commons Committee on Foreign Loans be extended to transactions of the nature thus illustrated, the gambling which corrupts society and ruins families might be exposed and thereby checked.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. FRANKLIN.

No. 53.

Mr. Murray to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 8.)

My Lord, *Rolls Yard, Chancery Lane, November* 8, 1875.

AS a holder of bonds of the Turkish Loan of 1862, I venture to draw your Lordship's attention to a point which I think was not mentioned by the deputation whom your Lordship received the other day.

At the time of the issue of the loans of 1854, 1858, 1862, and 1863, the Porte was free from debt (except the guaranteed loan of 1855), and she had full power to place (as she did place) the holders of the bonds of those loans in the position of first mortgagees of certain specified revenues.

Then came the general debt of 1865, a charge of course on all the revenues of the Empire, subject to existing mortgages, and subsequently the loans of 1865, 1869, 1871, 1872, and 1873, purporting to be a charge on specific revenues.

It seems to me that these latter loans stand in a very different position from the former, and that the interposition of the general debt makes all the difference between the two classes.

If Turkey were an insolvent estate in liquidation, the receiver would have to apply the revenues assigned to the earlier loans to that specific service, just as a first mortgagee would get paid out of his security before general creditors; but the loans after 1856 would have to share rateably with the holders of the general debt.

To say that the holders of the general debt can be shut out by the later loans, would be equivalent to saying that our Government could raise a loan on the special security of the Excise or Customs duties to the prejudice of the holders of consols.

I say nothing as to the peculiar way in which the 1862 Loan was issued to the public; but I may add that the loans prior to the general debt have always been outside the range of Stock Exchange speculations, and are *bonâ fide* held by investors, whereas the later loans have been the mark for all the gamblers in Europe.

I leave it for your Lordship's consideration whether in any friendly representations to the Porte a line should not be drawn at 1865, and the difference between the two classes of loans pointed out. I believe the earlier loans are almost wholly held here, the later all over Europe.

I cannot see how the 1871 Loan is in a better position than the 1869 or 1873. When the Egyptian tribute was increased, the increase became part of the general revenue of the Empire, and could not be made the subject of a specific charge to the prejudice of the general debt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARCHIBALD MURRAY.

No. 54.

Mr. W. H. Clark to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 9.)

My Lord, 6, *Leinster Gardens, Hyde Park, November* 8, 1875.

YOU will not, I trust, deem me intrusive or impertinent if, interested in the Turkish Loan of 1854, I venture to remark that its bondholders do not ask for succour from Her Majesty's Government on the grounds that it is one of the guarantees of Turkish independence, that England has fought for Turkey, or because of any speeches delivered in Parliament by Lords Palmerston, Clarendon, and Russell, even when they were Ministers of the Crown.

They claim succour on the ground that the Queen's Government in its corporate capacity, and with a view to providing Turkey with money to carry on the then war, formally and officially promoted, encouraged, and incited subscriptions to the Loan of 1854, by the formal statement of 15th August, 1854, bearing the signature of the Earl of Clarendon, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by the notification founded on that statement, which, with sanction and knowledge of the Queen's Government, was made part and parcel of the prospectus of the Loan, and which bears date 16th August, 1854. Without this encouragement of Her Majesty's Government, it is notorious the Loan (for which proposals were opened in August 1854) would not have been realized. And it is to be observed that proposals issued in March 1854, by the powerful house of Rothschild, for a Loan of 2,200,000*l.*, had to be withdrawn, because, wanting such official support from Her Majesty's Government, it failed to incite subscriptions.

I humbly submit, then, to your Lordship, that in replying, as reported in the "Times" of 6th November, to the deputation of bondholders, you were under some error in stating the grounds for the present request of the holders of the Loan of 1854, and as that error is reproduced by the press, it is the more important that it should be at once brought, as I presume to do, under your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. CLARK.

No. 55.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Murray.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, upon the subject of the Ottoman Loan of 1862.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 56.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. W. Smith.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, upon the subject of the Ottoman Loan of 1862.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 57.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Franklin.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to state to you, in reply to your letter of the 7th instant, that his Lordship does not consider that an interview with you in support of the Ottoman bondholders of 1862 is necessary, but he will be glad to consider anything you may have to state in writing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 58.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Clark.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 12, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, upon the subject of the Ottoman Loan of 1854.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 59.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 13.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 4, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a note from Safvet Pasha, transmitting the text of a law which has been promulgated for the creation of "titres" for 35,000,000*l.* Turkish, in execution of the financial measure just adopted by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Safvet Pasha to Sir H. Elliot.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 31 *Octobre*, 1875.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-joint à votre Excellence une copie de la Loi qui vient d'être promulguée pour la création de 35,000,000 de livres Turques de titres 5 pour cent en conformité des mesures financières décrétées le 6 Octobre, 1875.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, October* 31, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency a copy of the Law which has just been promulgated for the creation of 5 per cent. bonds for 35,000,000 Turkish pounds, in conformity with the financial measures decreed on the 6th of October, 1875.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Law for the Creation of "Titres" for Thirty-five Millions of Turkish Bonds.

[See No. 42.]

No. 60.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 22.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 6, 1875.

THE Agent of the Council of Foreign Bondholders has several times called upon me in reference to the late financial measures.

His wish, apparently, was to move me to endeavour to induce the Porte to concert with the Council as to the mode of putting them into execution with the least injury to the interests and rights of the bondholders.

I remarked to him that, as the Council only represents the British bondholders, such a course would probably not be acceptable to those of other nations, and I was therefore, on the whole, inclined to think that the Porte was taking a preferable line in trying to let

the Imperial Ottoman Bank arrange for the formation of the Syndicates, and for receiving through them the suggestions that might be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 61.

Mr. Hyde Clarke to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received November* 24.)

Council of Foreign Bondholders, 10, *Moorgate Street*,
My Lord, *London, E.C., November* 22, 1875.

ON the 9th October, I had the honour to address your Lordship on the subject of the Decree issued by the Sublime Porte with regard to the Public Debt, in relation to the 1858 and 1862 Loans

I beg to submit herewith, for the information of your Lordship and of Her Majesty's Ambassador in Constantinople, four copies of the despatch of his Excellency Safvet Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, under date 27th October, communicated to the Commissions through his Excellency Musurus Pasha, Ambassador of the Sublime Porte at this Court; and also of the reply of the Commissions under date 22nd November, addressed to His Highness the Grand Vizier.

I am instructed, at the same time, to request that your Lordship will have the kindness, unofficially, to call the attention of his Excellency Musurus Pasha to the request of the Commissions for the execution of Article IV of the two Conventions of 1873, negociated by his Excellency and by Etienne Musurus Bey, and ratified by the latter as Chargé d'Affaires.

In order to avoid delay, at a period when a Decree in contravention of the Conventions is proposed to be put into effect, I am instructed to request that your Lordship will also allow Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to ask from the Porte an answer on the same subject of Article IV of the Conventions.

Article IV of the 1858 Loan Convention is :—"IV. It is distinctly understood that if, for the convenience of all parties concerned, the bondholders agree to this arrangement, it is not any time to be considered as any supersession of the original provisions of their bond, and that in the event of any failure in carrying out the foregoing arrangements, a Commission, similar to that provided by General Bond dated 28th August, 1858, shall resume their active functions at Constantinople, in conjunction with two members representing the English bondholders, to be nominated by the Commission of Bondholders, and appointed by the Contractors of the Loan."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HYDE CLARKE, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Mr. Lander to the Committee of the Imperial Ottoman Loan of 1862.

Imperial Ottoman Bank, London Agency, 26, *Throgmorton Street, E.C.*,
Gentlemen, *London, November* 8, 1875.

I AM instructed to send you the accompanying copy of a letter, with which we have this morning been favoured from his Excellency the Ottoman Ambassador here, and of the communication from his Excellency the Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs, to which it refers as having been sent in reply to a letter addressed to His Highness the Grand Vizier by Mr. Hyde Clarke, in the name of the bondholders of the 1858 and 1862 Loans.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) WM. LANDER, *Secretary.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Musurus Pasha to the Agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank and Messrs. C. Deveaux & Co.

Gentlemen, *Imperial Ottoman Embassy, London, November* 6, 1875.

MR. HYDE CLARKE having addressed to His Highness the Grand Vizier a letter, dated the 8th ultimo, in the name of the bondholders of the 1858 and 1862 Loans, asking

for explanations on the subject of the measure recently decreed by the Sublime Porte respecting the service of the Public Debt, I have received, with instructions to communicate it to you, the despatch from his Excellency Safvet Pasha, dated the 27th ultimo, of which I beg to send you the inclosed copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MUSURUS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 61.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 27 Octobre*, 1875.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie d'une lettre que M. Hyde Clarke a adressée à Son Altesse le Grand Vézir pour demander, au nom des porteurs des obligations des Emprunts de 1858 et de 1862, des explications au sujet de la mesure qui vient d'être décrétée par la Sublime Porte relativement au service de la Dette Publique.

Cette mesure, qui s'applique indistinctement à toutes les valeurs constituant la Dette Publique Ottomane, et qui n'a, d'ailleurs, qu'un caractère tout-à-fait temporaire, est destinée à mettre fin aux embarras et difficultés de toute sorte qui entravent périodiquement le fonctionnement régulier du service des finances de l'Empire, depuis plusieurs années.

Nul n'ignore que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est constamment efforcé jusqu'ici, même dans les circonstances les plus défavorables, de satisfaire à ses engagements en ce qui concerne notamment les Emprunts de 1858 et de 1862; les sacrifices onéreux qu'il s'est imposés à cet effet, presqu'à chaque échéance de coupon, en font foi. Récemment encore n'a-t-il pas eu toutes les peines du monde pour faire face au paiement de l'échéance d'Octobre?

La situation allait en empirant et une catastrophe était imminente. Dans ces circonstances, l'adoption d'une mesure efficace, propre à faciliter au Gouvernement la tâche de se soustraire à cette position périleuse et de sauvegarder du même coup les intérêts de ses créanciers, était devenue un devoir et une nécessité impérieuse n'admettant ni hésitation ni délai.

La Sublime Porte s'est arrêtée au parti qui, tout en imposant, et ce à titre provisoire, le moins de sacrifices possible au public, donnait en même temps au Trésor le délai voulu et les moyens matériels nécessaires pour assurer l'avenir financier de la Turquie, et, dès lors, les intérêts de ses créanciers qui se trouvaient de plus en plus compromis.

Les détenteurs des titres Ottomans n'ont donc aucun sujet de s'inquiéter de cette résolution, qui aura pour résultat presqu'immédiat, et personne n'en doute à l'heure qu'il est, le rétablissement de son équilibre budgétaire.

Votre Excellence voudra bien communiquer ce qui précède à messieurs les contractants des susdits Emprunts, qui, nous en sommes convaincus, envisageront la question de ce même point de vue, et co-opéront, dans la mesure de leur pouvoir, à la réalisation du but proposé par le Gouvernement Impérial, en se faisant auprès des porteurs l'interprète des vues éminemment loyales qui ont présidé à adoption de la mesure financière dont il s'agit.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, October* 27, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Hyde Clarke to his Highness the Grand Vizier, asking, on behalf of the holders of the Bonds of the Loans of 1858 and 1862, for explanations on the subject of the measure which has just been decreed by the Sublime Porte relative to the service of the Public Debt.

This measure, which is to be applied without distinction to all the securities which constitute the Ottoman Public debt, and which, moreover, has quite a temporary character, is intended to put at end to the embarrassments and difficulties of every kind which, for several years past, have periodically impeded the regular working of the service of the finances of the Empire.

Everyone knows that the Imperial Government has, up to the present time, constantly endeavoured, even under the most unfavourable circumstances, to fulfil its engagements, especially as regards the Loans of 1858 and 1862; the burdensome

sacrifices, which it imposed upon itself almost every time the coupons fell due, attest this. Recently had it not the greatest difficulty in the world to meet the payments falling due in October?

The situation was getting worse and worse, and a catastrophe was imminent. Under these circumstances, the adoption of an efficacious measure, which would facilitate for the Government the task of extricating itself from this dangerous position, while protecting at the same time the interests of its creditors, became a duty and an imperative necessity, which admitted neither of hesitation nor of delay.

The Sublime Porte has decided upon a plan, which, while it imposes the least amount of sacrifice upon the public, and even this only temporarily, yet gives the Treasury the required delay and the necessary material means for securing the financial future of Turkey, and thereby the interests of its creditors, which were becoming more and more compromised.

The holders of Ottoman Bonds have, therefore, no reason to be alarmed at this resolution, which will have for almost immediate result the re-establishment of the equilibrium in the Budget, and at the present moment hardly anyone doubts this.

Your Excellency will communicate what precedes to the Contractors of the above-mentioned loans, and we are convinced that they will view the question in the same light, and will co-operate, as far as they may be able, in the realization of the object proposed by the Imperial Government, by representing to the bondholders the eminently loyal views which directed the adoption of the financial measure in question.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) SAFVET.

Inclosure 4 in No. 61.

Mr. Hyde Clarke to the Grand Vizier.

Council of Foreign Bondholders, 10, Moorgate, Street,
London, November 22, 1875.

Highness,

THE Joint Commissioners for the Ottoman Loans of 1858 and 1862, established in pursuance of the IIIrd Article of the Conventions with the Sublime Porte of the 4th and 14th of February, 1873, had the honour to address a letter to your Highness on the 8th October, by the hands of Mr. Stab, agent of the Commissions in Constantinople.

They have been favoured, so far as the 1862 Loan is concerned, with the transmission of a despatch of his Excellency Safvet Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, under date 27th October.

It is a matter of gratification to the Commissioners that this reply has been transmitted with the same formalities as accompanied the Convention of 4th February, 1873, by the channel of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Embassy in London, and the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and Messrs. Devaux and Co., contractors for the Loan of 1862.

The Commissions trust that this channel of serious communication once opened, will serve as before to bring about an amicable arrangement of the matters on discussion between the Sublime Porte and the Commission.

The Commissions desire respectfully to observe that while the despatch of his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs does answer the inquiry of the Commissions by acknowledging that the Sublime Porte did propose by its Decree of the 7th October, 1875, to commit a default of its pecuniary obligations towards the holders of the 1858 and 1862 Loans, it does not respond to the consequent reclamation of the Commissions.

The Commissions therefore claim of the Sublime Porte the integral and immediate application of the Conventions.

The Convention accepted by the bondholders of the 1862 Loan on the 17th February, 1873, and duly ratified by his Excellency the Ambassador of the Sublime Porte in London in its IVth Article textually recites:—

"It is distinctly understood that if, for the convenience of all parties concerned, the bondholders agree to this arrangement, it is not at any time to be considered as any supersession of the original provisions of their bond, and that, in the event of any failure in carrying out the foregoing arrangements, a Commission similar to that appointed by his Highness Aali Pasha, and reported in his letter to Sir Henry Elliot, 31st August, 1870, shall resume their active functions at Constantinople in conjunction with three members representing the English bondholders to be nominated by the Commission of Bondholders, and appointed by the Contractors of the Loan."

The instalment for the month of October of this year on the 1862 Loan not having been announced by the Imperial Ottoman Bank, the case foreseen by Article IV of the Convention has arisen, and the Syndicate is now to be constituted to receive the revenues of tobacco, salt, stamps, and patents, hypothecated to the service of the 1862 Loan. These revenues are more than sufficient to meet the service of the Loan, and to leave a large surplus for the general purposes of the Government.

So far as the despatch of the Minister for Foreign Affairs refers to the matter under consideration, it acknowledges the prospective rights of the holders of the 1862 Loan. It states that the Decree in question is of an absolutely temporary character, and intended to relieve the embarrassment of the finances of the Empire.

Upon this point the Commissions limit themselves to the observation that no exigency of the Ottoman Government can give it authority of itself to alter the Contract of 1862 and the Convention of 1863. It may be that the exigencies of the Government are greater than in 1873, but whatever the exigency may be, the Porte has only one legitimate course, which is, as in 1873, to address itself to the constituted representatives of the bondholders by the same channel as now, by an application emanating from its own Ministry transmitted to its representatives in London, and thence to the contractors for the Loan, and direct to the Commissions appointed by the Conventions of 1873.

The Sublime Porte has no other consistent course. Strictly observing the Convention of 1873, the Porte punctually transmitted the monthly instalments stipulated by the Convention, and which are announced in correspondent form. The Porte may be unable to continue this remittance, but it is under no compulsion to invade the solemnity of engagements, while at the same time it professes to the holders of the 1862 Loan to maintain their sanctity and to provide for their integral fulfilment at a fixed date.

The Convention of 1873 is too newly made to be disregarded or arbitrarily evaded.

It remains, therefore, for the Sublime Porte to give effect to the conditions of receipt of the revenues by Syndicate, or to make suitable overtures to the other parties contracting in the Convention of 1862, the bondholders.

The Commission notice with regret a passage in the despatch of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, which they prefer to regard as the result of some error rather than as having strict reference to the 1862 Loan. The Minister intimates that the Government has not complied with the Contract of 1862, nor with the Convention of 1873, and that the instalments announced in the journals as proceeding from the hypothecated revenues of tobacco, salt, &c., have not been so derived, but from other sources, in consequence of the alienation by the Government of those revenues. The Commissions do not enter on such controversy, but leave to the Government and the Imperial Ottoman Bank to vindicate themselves.

The Commissions do not, however, comprehend the statement that the Porte has, with the greatest difficulty in the world, provided for the payment of the October instalment, and they solicit explanations from the Government on this head.

The Minister states that it has been the desire of the Government, by an efficacious measure, to safe guard the interests of their creditors, and that the holders of the 1862 Loan have no cause for disquietude. The Commissions respectfully represent that it is not the duty of the Government or of loan contractors to devise or carry out measures for safe guarding the interests of the creditors, but that it is these latter who are first to be consulted as the best judges of their own interests.

This the Sublime Porte has not done, and its proposition, so far from being an efficacious measure, is one which has placed Turkey in a perilous position, and thereby inflicted most serious injury on the creditors. A measure so ill-advised, if allowed to be put in operation, must still further aggravate the difficulties of the Empire and create new embarrassments, and nothing short of its immediate suspension or modification as demanded by the bondholders of all the Loans will enable the Porte to alleviate the situation of embarrassment created by this measure.

Apart from all financial considerations, the Decree tends to deprive Turkey of that great resource of national organization, honour and credit. A nation may be poor, harassed by internal or external war, and enjoy high consideration, but the nation excites distrust that is exposed to greater evils than poverty. Such is the abyss of misery towards which the Decree is driving Turkey, and thereby inflicting greater losses on those who, like the holders of the 1862 Loan, lent money to Turkey on moderate terms, and under the liability of participation in her vicissitudes

What the Porte calls an efficacious measure for safeguarding the interests of creditors has already carried suffering and misery into the households of tens of thousands of families in England, Belgium, Holland, Germany, France, and Italy. Much of this suffering would have been averted, and may yet be averted, by the Porte making

honourable arrangements with the creditors with whom it has entered into solemn contracts.

As the bondholders of the 1862 Loan did not invite the Porte to safe guard their interests, so do they protest against this measure. The Commissions are fortified in this declaration by the unanimous resolutions of a general meeting of bondholders of the 1862 Loan, held on the 26th October last. They are likewise supported by the Committee then appointed in requiring of the Sublime Porte compliance with the stipulations of the Contract and of the Convention of 1873.

By some casualty, dependent on the course of communication adopted by the Porte, the documents relating to the 1858 Loan have not yet been received by the Commissions, which adhere to the same demands in relation to the 1858 Loan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HYDE CLARKE, *Secretary.*

No. 62.

Mr. Palmer to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 24.)

My Lord, *Bank of England, November* 23, 1875.

REFERRING to the interview at the Foreign Office recently granted by your Lordship, to myself and others as representing the Turkish Loans of 1854, 1858, and 1871, I have now the honour to request your Lordship to carry out the promise which you then made to us of giving, non-officially, to the cause we represent all the support and influence of Her Majesty's Government in our negotiations with the Turkish Government at Constantinople.

It may be satisfactory to your Lordship to be informed that the Council of Foreign Bondholders, who represent all the other Turkish Loans, have deputed two of their body to join the Committee over which I preside, in order that by uniting the interests of all classes in one body the possibility of any conflict or disunion may be avoided.

It is, therefore, in this capacity of head of a united Committee that I now address your Lordship.

I may also inform your Lordship that an influential Committee has been formed in Paris to represent French interests in the various Loans, with which we are in correspondence, and are acting in friendly alliance.

As we pointed out to your Lordship, the injustice of dealing with all the Turkish Loans upon one uniform system, reducing those that were issued at a high price in consequence of the supposed value of the security hypothecated to the same level with loans issued at a much lower price and without any security at all, is so apparent, that we have reason to believe, upon a very slight representation of the opinion entertained by Her Majesty's Government, that portion of the plan will be abandoned by the Turkish Government without hesitation.

But whatever scheme for readjustment or unification may ultimately be adopted in its place, the urgent and crying evil to be prevented at this moment is the contemplated issue by the Turkish Government of 35 millions of additional 5 per cent. stock for the purpose of paying the suspended interest and sinking fund, a step which will not only be fatal and irremediable as regards Turkey, and will prevent the possibility of any restoration of its credit, but which is neither appreciated nor desired by the bondholders, for whose benefit alone that scheme has been devised.

While objecting in the strongest manner to the plan which has been so hastily adopted by the Turkish Government, I desire to repeat to your Lordship that there is every disposition on the part of the bondholders of all classes to meet the Turkish Government in the fairest spirit, to make allowance for its difficulties, and to assist in the readjustment of its debt; and if met by Turkey in the same spirit, the Committee which I represent will be prepared to submit plans by which, instead of increasing the debt of the country by the issue of 35 millions of additional stock, the present amount of the debt may be diminished, and the annual sum required for the service of the various loans may be brought down to the amount which Turkey admits herself able to pay, and which it is believed her resources will permit her to discharge.

If, however, the fatal step should be taken of issuing any portion of this additional stock, the difficulties in the way of any arrangement will be greatly increased.

It is therefore under these grave and urgent circumstances, in the interest not only of the bondholders, but of Turkey itself, that I have to urge upon your Lordship immediately

to communicate with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople by telegraph, and to instruct him to express to the Turkish Government—

1. That in your Lordship's opinion the plan proposing to suppress one moiety of the interest and sinking fund on the whole of the external and internal debt, and further to divert the hypothecations upon the faith of which some of the loans were issued at high prices from the service of those special loans to the debt generally, thus prejudicing specially secured loans issued at high prices, and unfairly benefiting loans issued at much lower prices, either without security as the 5 per cent. consolidated Loan or upon inferior securities, is so manifestly unjust, that, judging from your communications with the bondholders, your Lordship believes no amicable arrangement with the Turkish Government can be possible on such a basis.

2. To represent to the Grand Vizier the fair and friendly spirit in which the bondholders are prepared to meet the Turkish Government, and to consider and agree upon a readjustment of the debt, and to urge upon the Turkish Government to enter into negotiations with the bondholders for that purpose.

3. Above all things to impress upon the Turkish Minister that, pending these negotiations, no further steps should be taken to create a further paper debt, which can only lead to further difficulties and embarrassment.

These views it is the intention of this Committee to urge with all the influence it can bring to bear at Constantinople, and for that purpose we have been so fortunate as to secure the services of Mr. Otway, late under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who will proceed to Constantinople as a special representative of the bondholders at the earliest possible date.

I shall have to ask your Lordship to afford to Mr. Otway all the support in your power in the objects of his mission, and for securing him a favourable reception from the Turkish Government.

I do not address your Lordship on this occasion as to the special position of the 1854 Loan as regards the remittance of the Egyptian tribute to the Bank of England, nor do I press your Lordship at this moment for any reply as to the course which the Government proposes to adopt with reference to that portion of the Egyptian tribute hypothecated for the service of the 1855 Loan, presuming, from not having heard from your Lordship on the subject, that it is still engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. HOWLEY PALMER,
Chairman of the United Committee.

No. 63.

Mr. Crawshay to the Earl of Derby.—(Received November 26.)

Gateshead Iron Works, Gateshead-upon-Tyne,
My Lord, *November 25, 1875.*

I BEG leave to direct your attention to the inclosure, and have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE CRAWSHAY.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Mr. Crawshay to Mr. C. F. Hamond, M.P.

Foreign Affairs Association, Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
Sir, *November 24, 1875.*

HAVING, at your request, submitted your plan for dealing with the debt of the Ottoman Empire to this Association, and the same having been considered at a meeting of the Association held yesterday, and, again, at a meeting held this day, I have now to express to you our warm approval of it.

We approve of your plan because, whilst respecting all existing securities, it proposes that the bondholders should themselves offer to the Ottoman Government to accept a settlement on the basis of reducing the principal of the debt, as nearly as practicable, to the amount which has been actually received by the Ottoman Government.

Trusting that your fellow bondholders will see that their true interests will be best

served by associating themselves with you in a course of conduct so equitable and so public spirited, I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE CRAWSHAY, *Chairman*

No. 64.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Hyde Clarke.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that copies of the papers inclosed in your letter of the 22nd instant, in relation to the Ottoman Loans of 1858 and 1862 will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople for his information, who will be instructed to render such unofficial support as he properly can to any representation which may be made by the bondholders.

Her Majesty's Government, however, must decline to communicate direct with the Ottoman Embassy in London on the subject, as suggested in your letter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 65.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Palmer.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter* stating that Mr. Otway has been chosen by the bondholders of the various Ottoman Loans to represent their interests at Constantinople, and I am to inform you in reply that a copy of your letter will be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, who will be instructed to give what unofficial support he properly can to Mr. Otway.

Her Majesty's Government cannot, however, instruct Sir H. Elliot by telegraph in the manner desired, or interfere officially in any way.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 66.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Crawshay.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, upon the subject of Mr. Hamond's plan for dealing with the Turkish Debt.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 67.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 3.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 23, 1875.

THE agent of the Council of Foreign Bondholders called upon me on the 18th instant, to speak of the position of the question of the reduction of the interest on the public debt of Turkey, again expressing his wish that the Porte might be induced to enter into communication with the Council, and concert with it the details and mode in which the reduction is to be carried out.

The contractors of the different loans having declined to name members of the proposed Syndicate, it was understood that the Porte intended to proceed to nominate them, which would, he said, deprive those bodies of all confidence.

* No. 62.

I asked Mr. Stab whether I could now tell the Porte that in this question the Council fairly represented the British holders of the bonds of all the different loans.

He said that, unfortunately, I could not, as the holders of bonds in three loans, who had sent a Deputation to wait on your Lordship on the 5th instant, had not associated themselves with the others; but the interests they represented were insignificant in amount, compared with those of the rest.

I observed that this divergence of views made it necessary for me to move with caution in the question; for while advocating the wishes of the one section of British subjects interested, I might be acting in a manner which the other section would consider injurious.

At the same time I certainly thought it desirable, if possible, that the Porte should invite the whole body of bondholders to concert upon the measures to be taken, and to try to avoid the obvious injustice of reducing all classes of securities to the same level.

I did not, however, quite see how it was to be done.

The British bondholders were not agreed among themselves, and, if they were, they would then represent less than the half of the whole of the Turkish creditors, those of other countries being entitled to equal consideration and to be consulted in the same way.

I afterwards saw Artin Effendi, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, and recommended that the Porte should not officially appoint the Syndicate, if it was possible to obtain the concurrence of the bondholders, and said that every effort should be made to arrive at this result through the Ottoman Ambassador in London.

Artin Effendi said that, provided it was understood that the Porte could not pay more than the half of the interest on its debt in money, its only wish was to carry out the measure in the way that would be preferred by the bondholders, and he would see if it would be possible to come to an understanding with them through Musurus Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 68.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1875.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for your information, copies of a letter from Mr. Palmer on behalf of the bondholders of the various Ottoman Loans,* announcing the selection of Mr. Otway to represent their interests at Constantinople, and of my reply thereto.

Your Excellency will give to Mr. Otway such unofficial support as you may think proper, but in no case can Her Majesty's Government undertake to support him officially.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 69.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1875.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for such unofficial support as you can properly afford, a copy of a letter from Mr. Hyde Clarke, who writes on behalf of the bondholders of the Ottoman Loans of 1858 and 1862.† I also transmit to you, for your information, a copy of the reply which I have caused to be returned to Mr. Clarke.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 62. † No. 61. ‡ No. 64.

No. 70.

Mr. Palmer to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received December* 2.)

My Lord, *Bank of England, December* 1, 1875.

I BEG to acknowledge your Lordship's letter of yesterday's date, written by desire of Lord Derby, and intimating that a copy of my former letter will be sent to Sir Henry Elliot at Constantinople, with authority to him to give unofficially any support that he can give properly to the mission entrusted to Mr. Arthur Otway by the holders of the bonds of the various Otttoman Loans.

Mr. Otway leaves London to-night for Paris, for the purpose of meeting Sadyk Pasha, who is expected to arrive there to-morrow evening. It is generally believed that Sadyk Pasha has authority from the Porte to negotiate upon this financial question, and in anticipation of this being the case, I venture to ask your Lordship to submit to Lord Derby the request of the Committee over which I preside, viz., that his Lordship will be good enough to send to Lord Lyons, our Ambassador in Paris, instructions and authority similar to what have been given to Sir Henry Elliot at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. HOWLEY PALMER.

No. 71.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 4.)

My Lord, *Rome, November* 30, 1875.

IN yesterday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies, in answer to a question asking for information requesting the action of the Government on behalf of Italian holders of Turkish stock, the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that the Italian Legation at Constantinople had officially requested explanations respecting the measure of partial payment of interest on the Turkish debt, and that a Syndicate was to be appointed to control the payment of revenues especially destined for payment of interest on the Foreign Debt.

The Minister added that, in answer to his inquiries, he had learnt that the other Great Powers had decided to maintain an attitude of reserve on this question, and that this announcement ought to make Italian capitalists more prudent in future in their investments.

I have the honour to inclose herewith, from the "Italie," an account of the above interpellation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Extract from "L'Italie" of November 29, 1875.

M. Petruccelli della Gattina interroge le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères sur les démarches faites par le Gouvernement pour sauvegarder les intérêts des citoyens Italiens possesseurs de rente Turque, lors de la récente catastrophe financière de la Turquie.

L'orateur rappelle ce qu'ont fait les Ministres Anglais et Français à ce sujet. Le bruit court que le Gouvernement Italien n'a rien fait, et cela sous le prétexte que les possesseurs de rente Turque sont cléricaux.

Je n'ajoute pas foi à ce bruit, car je sais que si le Gouvernement Italien est un parti, devant l'étranger il représente la nation. (*A droite :* Ecoutez !)

M. le Président.—Je vous fais observer que vous offensez le Gouvernement en l'accusa nt de ne pas défendre les intérêts de tous les citoyens indistinctement.

M. Petruccelli.—J'ai dit que je n'ajoutais pas fois à ce bruit.

M. le Président.—Tout Italien, à quelque parti qu'il appartienne, a droit à la protection du Gouvernement National.

M. Petruccelli.—Je l'entends précisément ainsi.

Parlant des opérations financières du Gouvernement, l'orateur les appelle des *carozzini*.

M. le Président.—Je vous invite à vous servir de termes plus conformes à la dignité du Parlement.

M. Petruccelli.—L'expression n'est pas de moi : je l'ai lue dans le "Times."

M. le Président.—Le " Times " n'est pas le Parlement. Il n'est pas permis de citer ici tout ce qu'écrit le " Times."

M. Petruccelli examine les conditions de la Turquie, les causes qui ont conduit ce Gouvernement à la faillite. Il cite les énormes dépenses de luxe que le Sultan fait avec les deniers publics.

Quant aux réformes, il dit qu'elles sont impossibles, comme elles étaient impossibles à Rome sous la domination du Pape. La Turquie n'est plus aujourd'hui qu'un préjugé diplomatique.

L'orateur déclare qu'il ne veut pas aujourd'hui demander au Gouvernement sa manière de voir au sujet de la question d'Orient.

M. le Président invite l'orateur à ne pas s'écarter de la question.

M. Petruccelli.—Je n'ai nullement l'intention de divaguer. L'orateur termine en demandant au Ministre quelles démarches il a faites pour protéger les intérêts des Italiens possesseurs de rente Turque.

M. Visconti Venosta, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, commence par déplorer que le langage de l'interpellant ne soit pas conforme à celui toujours tenu dans le Parlement National toutes les fois qu'il s'est agi de questions de politique étrangère

M. Petruccelli.—J'ai prononcé quelques mots——

M. le Président l'invite à ne pas interrompre.

M. Visconti Venosta aborde ensuite la question soulevée par l'interpellant. Il donne des éclaircissements sur le Décret Impérial relatif au mode de paiement des intérêts de la rente Turque.

Notre Légation à Constantinople demanda des éclaircissements sur cette mesure. Il y eut un échange de communications officielles dont le Gouvernement a déjà fait connaître le résultat au public. D'après des renseignements récents reçus par le Gouvernement, un syndicat serait constitué pour contrôler le couvrement des recettes qui devront servir au paiement de la dette.

Ce Syndicat représenterait les créanciers de la Porte et devrait s'entendre avec le Gouvernement Ottoman. Le Gouvernement a voulu connaître les vues qui prévalaient chez les autres nations. De cet échange de communications il est résulté que les autres Puissances n'entendent pas s'éloigner d'une grande réserve.

Ce fait devrait rendre plus prudents à l'avenir les capitalistes Italiens à l'égard d'opérations non suffisamment garanties. (Bravo ! bien !)

M. le Ministre répond ensuite à l'interpellant que le Gouvernement n'a jamais fait de différence entre les citoyens dans la protection de leurs intérêts. Il n'aurait pu s'éloigner de la ligne de conduite tenue par les autres Etats également intéressés.

Il promet de serveiller attentivement cette affaire et assure à la Chambre que les intérêts des Italiens seront dans cette circonstance aussi protégés que ceux des autres Etats.

M. Petruccelli.—Je ne suis nullement sûr que la Turquie ait encore cinq ans d'existence. (Ecoutez ! écoutez ! Hilarité !) Je n'ai donc aucune confiance dans la promesse faite de payer au bout de cinq ans la moitié des intérêts. Quant au Syndicat, je fais observer qu'il existe déjà depuis quelques années, mais sans aucun fruit.

Je ferai remarquer à l'honorable Ministre qu'il a condamné les capitalistes qui avaient acheté la rente Turque, oubliant que cette rente était cotée à la Bourse en Italie. Les possesseurs de cette rente sont des ignorants dignes de compassion. Je conviens que le Gouvernement Italien ne peut agir avec l'énergie des Gouvernements Français et Anglais, et partant il ne me reste qu'à avoir confiance dans la bonne volonté du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

M. le Président.—L'incident est vidé.

(Translation.)

M. Petrucelli della Gattina questions the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the steps taken by the Government for protecting the interests of Italian citizens possessing Turkish stock, since the recent financial catastrophe of Turkey.

The speaker recalls the action of the English and French Ministers on this subject. A rumour is current that the Italian Government has taken no action, and this under the pretext that the possessors of Turkish stock belong to the clerical party.

I do not myself believe this rumour, for I know that if the Italian Government is a party, before foreigners it represents the nation. (Hear ! *on the right.*)

The President.—I beg you to observe that you insult the Government in accusing it of not protecting the interests of all the citizens indiscriminately.

M. Petrucelli.—I said that I had not believed in this rumour.

The President.—Every Italian, to whatever party he belongs, has a right to the protection of the National Government.

M. Petrucelli.—Those are exactly my sentiments. Speaking of the financial operations of the Government the speaker calls them "Carrozzini."

The President.—I request that you will make use of terms more consistent with the dignity of the Parliament.

M. Petrucelli.—It is not my expression, I read it in the "Times."

The President.—The "Times" is not the Parliament. It is not permissible to quote here all that the "Times" writes.

M. Petrucelli examines the condition of Turkey, and the causes which have brought that Government to a state of bankruptcy. He cites the enormous superfluous expenditure by the Sultan of public money.

As to the reforms he says that they are impossible, as they were impossible at Rome under the rule of the Pope. The Turkey of to-day is only a diplomatic prejudice.

The speaker announces that he does not intend to-day to ask the Government for its views on the Eastern Question.

The President begs that he will confine himself to the subject under discussion

M. Petrucelli.—I have not the slightest intention of departing from it. The speaker in conclusion asks the Minister what steps he has taken for the protection of the interests of Italians possessing Turkish stock.

M. Visconti Venosta, Minister of Foreign Affairs, begins by deploring that the language of the interrogator is not in conformity with that always held in the National Parliament whenever there has been a question of foreign policy.

M. Petrucelli.—I said some words—

The President begs him not to interrupt.

M. Visconti Venosta then enters on the subject raised by the questioner. He gives explanations on the Imperial Decree relating to the mode of payment of the interest of the Turkish stock.

Our Legation at Constantinople demanded explanations on this measure. There was an interchange of official communications, of which the Government had already made known the result to the public. According to recent information received by the Government, a Syndicate would be appointed to control the collection of the receipts which are to meet the payment of the debt.

This Syndicate would represent the creditors of the Porte, and is to come to an understanding with the Ottoman Government. The Government has wished to learn the views which prevailed among the other nations. The result of this exchange of communications shows that the other Powers intend to act with great reserve.

This fact should render the Italian capitalists more prudent in future with regard to operations insufficiently guaranteed. (Cheers. Hear.)

The Minister then states, in reply to the questioner, that the Government has never made any distinction among the citizens in the protection of their interests. It could not have departed from the line of conduct held by the other States equally interested.

He promises to watch this question attentively, and assures the Chamber that the interests of Italians in this case shall have the same protection as those of the other States.

M. Petrucelli.—I am by no means sure that Turkey will exist another five years (hear, hear, laughter); I have therefore no confidence in the promise made to pay half the interest at the end of five years. As to the Syndicate, I beg to observe that it has existed already for several years, but without any good result.

I would remark to the Honourable Minister that he has blamed the capitalists who have bought Turkish stock, forgetful that that stock was quoted on the Italian Exchange. The possessors of this stock are ignorant people who merit sympathy. I allow that the Italian Government cannot act with the same energy as the French and English Governments, and therefore I can only rely upon the goodwill of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The President,—The debate is closed.

No. 72.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, December 6.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 17 Novembre,* 1875.

J'Ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de la lettre que vous avez adressée le 21 Octobre dernier à son Excellence Safvet Pacha, relativement aux récentes mesures financières.

Diverses communications concernant le même objet sont déjà parvenues à votre Excellence, et ont dû lui permettre d'éclairer plus complètement Lord Derby sur le véritable caractère des mesures décrétées et de ramener l'opinion publique à une plus saine appréciation des intentions et des actes du Gouvernement Impérial.

Vous devez être aujourd'hui pleinement convaincu, M. l'Ambassadeur, qu'il serait aussi dangereux qu'inopportun de modifier les décisions financières de la Sublime Porte, et que le moindre changement aurait pour effet, non seulement de jeter une nouvelle cause de perturbation dans l'esprit des intéressés, mais d'enlever aux actes du Gouvernement Impérial tout crédit et toute autorité.

Vous voudrez bien aussi, M. l'Ambassadeur, faire ressortir aux yeux de Lord Derby l'impossibilité où se trouvait le Gouvernement Impérial d'établir une ligne de démarcation entre les détenteurs de la dette extérieure et ceux de la dette intérieure sous peine d'être taxé d'un esprit d'économie mal entendue et surtout d'un parti pris de léser les intérêts des uns au détriment des autres. Il est vrai que les emprunts extérieurs sont dotés d'un amortissement qui se trouve atteint par les mesures actuelles, tandis que la dette générale n'est touchée que dans le mode de paiement de ses coupons d'intérêt.

Mais il est à remarquer que les titres des emprunts extérieurs qui sortiront aux tirages dans la période de cinq années seront payés moitié en espèces et moitié en un titre doté lui-même d'un amortissement certain et régulier, d'où il suit que le détenteur, au lieu d'être frappé, comme on s'est plû à le croire au premier abord, d'une répudiation complète ou d'une réduction temporaire, ne subit en définitive qu'un simple ajournement ; de la même façon que si l'on avait décidé que durant les cinq années on ne ferait plus sortir de la roue que la moitié des numéros prescrits par les Conventions, votre Excellence saisira certainement cette occasion pour rappeler soit à sa Seigneurie soit aux intéressés qui s'adresseraient à elle, soit enfin aux organes de l'opinion publique, que la Dette Générale a été privée de l'amortissement qui lui était acquis par voi de rachat, et qu'on ne saurait légitimement aggraver le sort des détenteurs de ce fonds, en faisant peser sur eux une plus lourde charge, dans l'exécution de la mesure de salut que le Gouvernement Impériale a été obligé d'adopter.

En ce qui touche les affectations spéciales que les intéressés reprochent au Gouvernement Impérial d'avoir méconnues à leur détriment, vous n'aurez pas manqué déjà, M. l'Ambassadeur, de leur faire constater combien ce reproche est mal fondé, en présence des garanties nouvelles et collectives que le Gouvernement Impérial met à la disposition des Syndics qui doivent être désignés par les représentants des détenteurs de fonds Ottomans. C'est la réalité mise à la place d'une fiction. Je dis une fiction, puisque, si l'on compare le cours de la dette générale avec les cours des dettes extérieures dotées d'affectations spéciales, on constate une parfaite parité de crédit, sur tous les marchés de l'Europe, entre ces deux valeurs, en tenant compte des conditions différentes d'intérêt et du dégré d'avancement de l'amortissement, d'où il suit que jamais ces affectations n'ont eu aucune influence sur la tenue des cours, tandis que les garanties actuelles étant réelles et effectives doivent exercer une influence marquée sur le crédit de la Turquie et sur la confiance publique.

Je vous prie, M. l'Ambassadeur, d'utiliser ces considérations tant dans vos entretiens avec Lord Derby, et dans vos rapports avec les financiers Anglais, qu'auprès des organes influents de la presse.

Je vous prie, M. le Ambassadeur, d'exprimer en même temps à Lord Derby de la part de son Altesse le Grand Vézir, toute sa gratitude pour les marques de bienveillance et de sympathie qu'il a bien voulu donner au Gouvernement Impérial à l'occasion des dernières mesures financières, et en particulier pour la déclaration qu'il s'est plû à faire à la députation des détenteurs de nos fonds, déclaration qui a fait l'objet du dernier télégramme de votre Excellence.

Sa Seigneurie doit être absolument certaine que la Sublime Porte ne séparera jamais ses intérêts de ceux de ses créanciers qui lui sont chers à plus d'un titre.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) ARTIN DADIAN.

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, November* 17, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st of October last, addressed to his Excellency Safvet Pasha, which relates to the recent financial measures.

Various communications on the same subject have already reached your Excellency, and will have enabled you both to enlighten Lord Derby more completely as to true

character of the measures decreed, and to lead public opinion to a more correct appreciation of the intentions and acts of the Imperial Government.

You must, M. l'Ambassadeur, be by this time thoroughly convinced that it would be as dangerous as it would be ill-timed to modify the financial decisions of the Sublime Porte, and that the slightest change would result, not only in again disturbing the minds of those interested, but would moreover deprive the acts of the Imperial Government of all credit and all authority.

You will further, M. l'Ambassadeur, explain to Lord Derby how impossible the Imperial Government found it to be to establish a line of demarcation between the holders of the Foreign Debt and the holders of the Internal Debt, without laying itself open to the charge of an erroneously conceived idea of economy, and more especially to that of having made up its mind to sacrifice the interests of certain classes of bondholders to those of the others.

But it is moreover to be observed that the bonds of the Foreign Debt to be drawn by lot during the period of five years will be paid half in specie and half by a bond, which will itself be endowed with a certain and regular sinking fund, whence it follows that the bondholder, instead of being subjected, as was at first supposed, to entire repudiation or to a temporary reduction, will really only suffer a simple postponement, in the same way as if it had been decided to draw during the five years the half only of the numbers prescribed by the Conventions. Your Excellency will obviously take this opportunity of reminding both his Lordship, the parties interested who may apply, and finally the organs of public opinion, that the General Debt has been deprived of the sinking fund allotted to it by way of re-purchase, and that it would be unjust, in the execution of the measure of necessity which the Imperial Government has been obliged to adopt, to aggravate the lot of the holders of these funds by imposing upon them a still heavier charge.

As regards the special assignments which the parties interested reproach the Imperial Government with having disregarded to their prejudice, you will doubtless not have failed to point out to them how unfounded this reproach is, in presence of the new and collective guarantees which the Imperial Government places at the disposition of the Syndics who are to be nominated by the representatives of Ottoman bondholders. It is substituting a reality for a fiction. I say a fiction, for on comparing the quotations of the General Debt with those of the Foreign Debt, to which special assignments are allotted, it will be found that these two securities enjoy a perfectly similar position in all the European markets, if allowance is made for the different conditions of interest and sinking fund; whence it follows that these assignments have never had any influence upon the rate of quotation, whereas the actual guarantees, being real and effective, must have a marked influence upon the credit of Turkey and upon public opinion.

I request, M. l'Ambassadeur, that you will make use of these considerations both in your interviews with Lord Derby, and in your communications with English financiers and the influential organs of the press.

I beg you, M. l'Ambassadeur, to express at the same time to Lord Derby, on behalf of the Grand Vizier, all his Highness's gratitude for the proofs of kind feeling and sympathy which his Lordship has been pleased to give to the Imperial Government upon the occasion of the recent financial measures, and more especially for the statement which he made to the Deputation from our bondholders, which statement formed the subject of the last telegram from your Excellency.

His Lordship may feel quite certain that the Sublime Porte will never separate its interests from those of its creditors, who are dear to it on many grounds.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) ARTIN DADIAN.

No. 73.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 6, 1875.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Sir Henry Elliot,* at the request of Mr. Edward H. Palmer, one of the Deputy-Governors of the Bank of England, on behalf of the bondholders of the various Ottoman Loans, who have selected Mr. Arthur Otway to represent their interests at Constantinople, instructing Sir H. Elliot to give Mr. Otway such unofficial support as he may think proper,

* No. 68.

but stating that in no case could Her Majesty's Government undertake to support him officially.

I further inclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Palmer,* announcing Mr. Otway's intention to proceed to Paris for the purposes of meeting Sadyk Pasha, who is expected to arrive in that capital on business connected with the question of the Loans; and, in accordance with the wish expressed by Mr. Palmer, I have to request that your Excellency will, in like manner as Sir H. Elliot has been instructed, afford to Mr. Otway such unofficial assistance as you can properly give him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 74.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Palmer.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 6, 1875.*

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, requesting, on behalf of the Ottoman bondholders, that instructions analogous to those which have been given to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople may be addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, to afford to Mr. Otway, on his visit to that capital on business connected with the interests of the bondholders, such unofficial assistance as he properly can; and I am to inform you, in reply, that Lord Lyons has been instructed accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 75.

Mr. Otway to Lord Tenterden.—(Received December 7.)

My Lord, *Hotel Meurice, Paris, December 6, 1875.*

IT is considered here that Sadyk Pasha will be furnished with, or will obtain, instructions which will enable him to conclude arrangements with the holders of Turkish bonds.

If that be the case, it will not be necessary for those who are charged with their interests to proceed to Constantinople, and it is on this supposition that I ask you to be so good as to request Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to address to Lord Lyons a letter similar to that which I gather from your Lordship's letter to Mr. Palmer of the 30th ultimo he purposed addressing to Sir Henry Elliot relating to myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR OTWAY.

No. 76.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 11, 1875.*

I HAVE laid before the Earl of Derby your letter of the 6th instant, and I am directed by his Lordship to state to you, in reply, that, previous to its receipt, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris had been instructed, upon the application of Mr. Edward Palmer, to afford you such unofficial assistance as he properly could in the business in which you are engaged on behalf of holders of Ottoman bonds.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 77.

Newspaper Extract.

THE TURKISH BONDHOLDERS. DEPUTATION TO LORD DERBY.—Yesterday, Mr. Hamond, M.P., introduced a Deputation to the Earl of Derby at the Foreign Office,

* No. 70.

(with whom was Lord Tenterden). The Deputation consisted of Mr. James London (Deputy Chairman of the General Committee); Mr. Guedalla (Chairman of the Committee of the Five per Cent. Loans, representing 96,000,000*l.* sterling); Mr. Withers (Commissioner of the 1858 and 1862 Loans); Sir Alfred Slade (as an independent bondholder, representing a heavy interst in the 1854 Loan); and Mr. Sydney Crawshay, holding very large family interests in the several loans. In introducing the Deputation it was stated that they were both representative and influential. They proposed to take the money which the late Iradé secured in the manner following:—The debt of Turkey was of two descriptions, those loans negotiated in foreign countries, and which had special hypothecations secured to them; and the General Debt, which was called the Consolidated Debt, and which ten years ago was an internal debt of Turkey, and had now been made an internal and general debt which had no security. The present debt of Turkey secured by special hypothecations was about 74,800,000*l.*, and the debt had been increased by borrowing at different times since 1854, in this way—issuing 100*l.* bonds at a nominal price of 100*l.*, but issuing these different loans, and invariably paying 6 per cent. upon each 100*l.* bond. So that the Turkish Government had sometimes had 80*l.*, 78*l.*, 62*l.*, down to the Loan of 1873 for nominal 100*l.* bonds. They at the same time paid an interest of 6 per cent., not upon the price of issue, but upon the nominal amount of the bonds—thus hypothecating under each loan a certain sum of money which would pay the sinking fund of 1 or 2 per cent., as the case might be, or the interest upon the loan. The Turkish Government never had any benefit from the operation until the entire amount of the debt bought in that particular year was paid off. Inasmuch as the interest upon the debts increased by the mode of paying off by means of sinking fund, the interest so saved by paying of the debt was added to the sinking fund, and so at the present moment some of the sinking funds amount to greater sums than the interest on the remaining debt, so that the debt was 74,892,760*l.* There is a general debt issued at 5 per cent., upon which no security has been given, amounting to 84,300,000*l.* The original issue was intended to be 96,000,000*l.*, but only 84,200,000*l.* had been issued, owing to the fact that the Treasury bondholders have an opportunity between this and 1878 of exchanging their holdings to 100*l.* bonds, bearing interest at 9 per cent., with a general debt at the rate of 150*l.* for 100*l.* Treasury bonds. The General Debt, which was issued on an average at 46*l.* or 48*l.* also bears interest at 5 per cent. on the 100*l.* The total, including the Treasury Bonds and the debt, amounted to 31,000,000*l.*, which was created for the Roumelian Railway Lottery Loan 1870, and the present contract, which is held principally in Austria, making a present total of 197,417,160*l.* debts, requiring 13,000,000*l.* and 14,000,000*l.* a-year to pay the interest of the sinking fund.

Lord Derby.—When you take these figures you take the whole amount for which the Turkish Government is at present liable, that amount being very much in excess of the money which they have actually received.

Mr. Hamond said—Yes, the amount which they had received was only the amount which they had paid for the relative price of issue under the different loans. Turkey felt herself unable to bear the heavy amount of interest, and upon a large amount of capital she had received no consideration whatever, and the result of her financial position was not surprising. They now offered to pay one-half of the interest in sinking funds on the present rates, giving interest on the other half which they do not pay, giving interest on that, and then issuing paper for the one-half of the interest, which at the end of five years would amount to 35,000,000*l.* of additional debt to Turkey, and a charge upon her revenue of 2,100,000*l.*, for although the 7,000,000*l.* in the first year would only amount to about 350,000*l.* for interest, yet in the second year it would multiply, so that under the special Iradé in five years she would have to pay 15,000,000*l.* a-year on her debt of 197,447,160*l.*, plus the 35,000,000*l.* new debt which she proposes to issue by borrowing at an interest extending over thirty-five years. Therefore the bondholders, seeing the position in which Turkey was placed, and anxious to devote the 7,000,000*l.*, which she would have to pay as interest and sinking fund for future debt in a way that would be more beneficial to the bondholders, and far more advantageous to herself, suggest a scheme whereby the bondholders, both secured and unsecured, in order to relieve Turkey from her financial embarrassments, and to do the best in their power to show their appreciation of the future of Turkey, say they will surrender the difference between the price of this plus 10 per cent. and the nominal amount of their respective bonds, and to apply the 7,000,000*l.* in a way more advantageous to both parties.

Lord Derby.—That is to say, if I understand you rightly, that where a loan has been nominally for 100*l.* issued at 80*l.*, that you will only hold the Turkish Government responsible for payment of 80*l.*?

Mr. Hamond replied in the affirmative, plus 10 per cent. With regard to the

mode adopted by Turkey of borrowing, not one sixpence of some of the loans had ever reached the Turkish Treasury, but had been swallowed up by the contractors. What was proposed was to create the difference between 80*l.* per cent. and the nominal debt of 100*l.*, which would be the future debt of Turkey under each particular debt.

Lord Derby.—I see you call your newly-proposed sinking fund "accumulative." I quite understand that, but a great deal turns upon the question what you invested in at the time. What basis do you put that upon?

Mr. Hamond said the bondholders had made a free offer to a foreign country of 78,500,000*l.* to relieve her in the time of need, and gave up the right to the 335,000*l.* odd of the present sinking fund, and say, begin *de novo* with their reduced capital, and then form a sinking fund to commence with. They say they will reduce their debt, and begin a new sinking fund upon that debt.

Lord Derby.—I do not quite understand your proposition. What do you mean by a sinking fund?

Mr. Hamond said—Take his own loan of 1862. On that loan 640,000*l.* was year by year taxed by the Porte to pay the interest and sinking fund upon the 8,000,000*l.* originally borrowed. As the interest decreases by means of these drawings year by year at 2 per cent. per annum, it does not go the benefit of the Porte, but the 640,000*l.* always remain, and therefore the interest is thrown upon the sinking fund to increase it, and that is the meaning of the word accumulative.

Lord Derby.—You will invest it in their debt?

Mr. Hamond said yes, and whatever might come out might be drawn by the process of the sinking fund year by year, and the interest upon the amount so saved or drawn was added to the sinking fund, so that year by year the sinking fund increases as the debt is paid off by the interest upon that debt which is so paid off. They brought the bondholders' debt down from 74,000,000*l.* to 52,000,000*l.*, and the interest becomes 3,100,000*l.*, whilst the sinking fund is only 640,000*l.*, instead of 3,000,000*l.* of money. They went to the issue of 5 per cent. That was reduced to 44,000,000*l.* On the 5 per cent. amounts to 2,210,000*l.*, and the sinking fund has never yet been touched upon. That has no special security. Then they came to the Treasury bonds, and here the original 5 per cent. issue is 96,000,000*l.*, but at present only 84,000,000*l.* is issued, because the Treasury bonds have a right to exchange into the general debt if they like, within the period of three years, so that if they exchange their amounts, then the Treasury bonds become added to the general issue of 5 per cent., and they are no longer Treasury bonds or Exchequer issue. The bondholders gave a greater sinking fund to it, and a greater amount of interest, because it was their anxiety to deal with all classes in a spirit of equity and liberality. The result was that by an actual reduction in the present debt of 78,505,912*l.* in favour of Turkey a permanent saving to the country of interest and sinking fund amounted to 5,343,744*l.* In addition, they prevented her issuing that 35,000,000*l.* which she proposes to do, and at the end of five years they save her another 2,000,000*l.* and odd more. So that the scheme proposes to relieve Turkey in her present position of about 113,000,000*l.* of her debt and save her 7,300,000*l.* a-year. Such an offer was unprecedented, but it was done to show a feeling that they regard the interests of Turkey with warm solicitude, and they did not presume to ask his Lordship to take any official action on this matter as they were acting for themselves; but they did ask that when the bondholders so readily abandoned so large an interest in the debt of Turkey, and gave up 78,000,000*l.* of her present debt, and thus prevented her borrowing 35,000,000*l.* more, they did ask his Lordship to aid as much as he could in an unofficial manner—that his Lordship would be good enough to telegraph to the Ambassador at Constantinople to aid as best he is able, and in an unofficial manner to recommend the present scheme for adoption, so that the coupons and bonds of all the loans of Turkey might on the 1st of January come within the scope of its operation. He trusted his Lordship would aid them with all his unofficial power. In a room of 600 gentlemen the scheme had been sanctioned almost unanimously.

Lord Derby.—As I understand, you do not propose to increase the amount which the Turkish Government is to pay year by year to its creditors?

Mr. Hamond.—Not a bit.

Lord Derby.—You only propose that the money shall be differently applied?

Mr. Hamond said that was so.

Lord Derby.—You start upon the principle, so far as that goes, of her having received the money, and no farther?

Mr. Hamond affirmed that remark, but said that not one creditor would be the loser to the amount of one penny until the scheme was adopted.

Lord Derby.—Have you any means of ascertaining what the feeling of the foreign bondholders is?

Mr. Guedalla, Chairman of the Committee of the General Debt of Turkey, said Turkey had been more sinned against than sinning. The Loan of 1873 was swallowed up by syndicates and contractors in all the foreign cities, including London, at 38. It was then brought forward in Paris, without any notice, at 42½. The speaker mentioned other similar instances, and added that on the Treasury bills, which were 9 per cent., Turkey paid 11*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* per cent. to the loan contractors, the profit being 2,250,000*l.* only. They had received accounts from Paris quite favourable for the adoption of the scheme of a *projet d'amour*, as they called it. During the last twenty years Turkey had lived by borrowing; her Treasury bills had never been raised at less than 75 per cent., and the last time the amount was given to her by the Ottoman Bank at 18 per cent.

Sir Alfred Slade said, as a holder of 1854 stock, he did not desire to be included in any scheme, but he had no hesitation in saying that Mr. Hamond's scheme was most just and equitable, and would prevent stock-jobbing speculation.

Lord Derby.—Do I understand that you recommend Mr. Hamond's scheme for all the loans except the one you are interested in? You think you have an exceptional position; but if that position is not admitted, then you fall back upon this scheme?

Sir Alfred Slade said—Just so. He begged to say that Mr. 'Palmer, who attended here a few weeks ago, had no right to represent the 1854 bondholders; and perhaps his Lordship recollected he (Sir Alfred Slade) wrote to him (Lord Derby) protesting against his representing that loan.

Lord Derby.—Yes. Mr. Otway has lately gone out, as I understand, representing the bondholders.

Mr. Hamond.—Before any meeting took place Messrs. Palmer took upon themselves to send Mr. Otway out to act on their behalf. We protested against his acting in any way as our representative. He is a highly respectable man. No one could find fault with him in any way; but he represents another interest important to himself, being chairman of the Smyrna and Aidin Railway, and that Company requires from the Porte a large amount of interest guaranteed, which they have not yet received; and they felt that any gentleman nominated by holders of 7,000,000*l.* of stock should not be forced upon holders of 107,000,000*l.* They thought, therefore, they were entitled to be represented by a gentleman who has the whole interest at heart, and not one acting for himself.

Lord Derby.—I wish to understand your views, and if you will just put a statement into writing so that we may have it officially to work upon, I shall be glad.

Mr. Hamond promised to supply this, and the deputation thanked his Lordship and retired.

No. 78.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I transmit to your Excellency herewith, for your information, a copy of a printed statement† left with me to-day, by the deputation of Turkish bondholders, from which your Excellency will observe that Mr. Hamond, M.P., and Mr. Butler Johnston, M.P., are represented to be the Commissioners named by the bondholders.

The deputation likewise explained that Mr. Otway was only acting in behalf of Palmer and the loans with which he was associated, and not in beh of the general body of bondholders.

A further communication is to be made to me by the members of this deputation; but I lose no time in making your Excellency acquainted with their statement in regard to Mr. Otway's position.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 79.

Mr. Hamond, M.P., to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 14.)

My Lord, *Westminster Palace Hotel, December* 13, 1875.

ACCORDING to your request made at this afternoon's deputation, I now beg to hand to your Lordship copies of the scheme proposed for the settlement of the Turkish debt, and which has been agreed to by all classes of bondholders.

* Identic despatch to Sir H. Elliot. † See Inclosure in No. 79.

I need not repeat to your Lordship the explanations already given you, further than to repeat that this scheme, while accepting the 7,000,000*l.* per annum, as named under the late Iradé, it is by this scheme applied in such a way, that it proposes to relieve Turkey of 78,000,000*l.* of her debt, and effect a saving of 5,500,000*l.* of her revenue, and also preclude the necessity of the Porte issuing the additional 35,000,000 of bonds, as proposed by the late Iradé, and so effect a further saving at the end of five years of 2,000,000*l.* a-year.

This frank, generous, and voluntary offer, is so graceful an act, that a Minister of England may well be proud in recommending so great a proposition. I ask, then, your Lordship to give us what we have fairly a right to expect, the moral and unofficial support of England's Foreign Minister; and in urging upon your Lordship the absolute and imperative necessity for prompt action by telegram to Constantinople, so that the dividends, &c., payable in January may be made under this scheme. I feel I am only asking for that which does not in the remotest degree involve this country in any Imperial payment, or the slightest political complication whatever. It is a simple, generous act, although unprecedented in any country, for which we ask your Lordship's moral and ready support. Delay may be fatal, but prompt and decisive action may prove the greatest benefit to the Porte.

The bondholders feel they have done their part in proving their deep solicitude for the welfare of the Ottoman Empire; and earnestly hope that your Lordship will not be indifferent to the simple request now made to you.

I beg to inclose the copy of letter I mentioned to your Lordship, and also one received to-day, of a still far more favourable character, as to the feelings of the Porte in regard to the "Hamond" scheme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. FRED. HAMOND.

Inclosure 1 in No. 79.

Memorandum.

THE following are the general principles upon which it is proposed to carry out the settlement of the Turkish Debt, in accordance with the scheme of Mr. Hamond, M.P., adopted by all the bondholders:—

I. No new stock or bonds to be created, as proposed by the late Iradé, and the existing bonds and coupons to remain unaltered (thus saving great trouble, loss of time, and expense.)

II. The existing hypothecations to be preserved, or ample equivalents thereto.

III. The revenues, excepting the Egyptian tribute, to be paid over to a Joint Commission at Constantinople, the bondholders of England, France, Germany, Austria, and Italy, each electing one (the Porte being respectfully invited to nominate one also, should they think fit), and by this Commission to be remitted monthly to England through the Imperial Ottoman Bank, on account of, and in trust for, the bondholders, to be paid over, as received, to the credit of the agents of the various loans.

IV. The Egyptian tribute to be remitted direct, and the account to be continued by the Bank of England as heretofore, subject to the details of the general scheme for reduced interest and sinking fund, the balance being applicable for the other loans, as proposed by Safvet Pasha's Circular of October 20.

V. The rates of interest to be paid to be the existing rates on the various bonds, excepting the Treasury bonds, reduced to 6 per cent., calculated upon the issue price of of the bond, plus 10 per cent. additional to such issue price, according to the scheme of Mr. Hamond, M.P., unless the rates of interest to be paid shall be increased at the end of five years by the voluntary action of the Porte itself.

VI. Coupons to be absolutely surrendered on the reduced payment being made on them by the agents, in accordance with Clause 5.

VII. The balance of the sum which Turkey will pay annually for interest on the various loans, under Clause V, shall be applied to the purposes of the several sinking funds, by drawings for payment at 10 per cent. beyond issue price of bonds.

That Mr. Hamond, M.P., the Chairman of the United Committees, and Mr. Butler Johnston, M.P., be the Commissioners on behalf of the bondholders to carry out the above arrangements, in co-operation with the Council of Foreign Bondholders, they electing a Commissioner to act on their behalf.

Application of the Principle of Mr. Hamond's Scheme to the Entire Debt of Turkey, Secured and Unsecured, with the exception of the Loan of 1855, guaranteed by England and France.

Date of Issue.	Original Amount.	Present Amount.	Present Interest.	Present Sinking Fund.	Price of Issue.	Proposed 10 per Cent. extra.	Reduced Debt.	Rate of Interest.	Amount of Interest.	Sinking Fund (Accumulative).	Special Securities hypothecated.
	£	£	£	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	£	
6 per cent., 1854 ..	3,000,000	1,896,500	113,790	96,210	80	88	1,668,920	6	100,136	1 per cent. 16,690	Egyptian Tribute.
,, 1858 ..	5,000,000	3,716,500	222,990	127,010	Average 78	86	3,196,190	6	191,772	,, 31,962	Constantinople Customs and Octroi dues.
,, 1860 ..	2,000,000	1,638,500	98,310	42,378	62½	69	1,130,565	6	67,834	,, 11,306	Customs duties.
,, 1862 ..	8,000,000	5,082,900	304,974	335,026	68	75	3,812,175	6	228,731	2 per cent. 76,244	Tobacco, Salt, Stamps, Patents.
,, 1863 ..	8,000,000	4,946,700	296,802	343,198	Average 71	78	3,838,430	6	230,306	,, 76,770	Direct Taxes, balance of above.
,, 1865 ..	6,000,000	4,162,500	249,000	332,500	65½	72	2,997,000	6	179,820	$2\frac{44}{100}$ per cent. 73,127	Sheep Tax of Roumelia and Archipelago, &c.
,, 1869 ..	22,222,220	20,650,000	1,239,000	316,555	60½	66	13,629,000	6	817,540	1 per cent. 136,290	Tithes of certain Provinces, Surplus Seeep Tax, &c.
,, 1871 ..	5,700,000	5,450,660	327,040	71,960	73	80	4,360,528	6	261,632	,, 43,606	Egyptian Tribute.
,, 1873 ..	27,777,780	27,348,500	1,640,910	303,535	58½	64	17,503,040	6	1,050,182	,, 175,030	Sundry Tithes, Verghis and Tapou.
	87,700,000	74,892,760	4,492,816	1,968,372	..	..	52,135,848	..	3,127,953	641,025	
5 per cent. Issues, 1865–74.	84,200,000	84,200,000	4,210,000	Not applied	Various	52½	44,205,000	5	2,210,250	Not applied	No special guarantee.
	171,900,000	159,092,760	8,702,816	1,968,372	..	..	96,340,848	..	5,338,203	641,025	
9 per cent. Treasury Bonds, 1872	11,126,000	6,816,400	613,476	Repayable within next three years	98½	100	6,816,400	6	408,984	2 per cent. 136,328	Certain Tithes and Anatolian Sheep Tax.
3 per cent. Roumelian R. W. Lottery Loan, 1870	31,680,000	31,508,000	945,240	About 146,000	Various	50	15,754,000	3	472,620	say 35,000	No special guarantee.
	214,706,000	197,417.160	10,261,532	2,114,372	..	..	118,911,248	..	6,219,807	812,353	

SUMMARY.

	£
Present debt as above	197,417,160
Proposed future debt	118,911,248
Actual reduction in favour of Turkey	78,505,912

	£
Interest and Sinking Fund for same	12,375,904
Ditto ditto for future debt	7,032,160
Permanent saving of Interest and Sinking Fund ..	5,343,744

Relieving Turkey of 78,500,000*l.* of Debt, and effecting a saving of 5,300,000*l.* per annum of her revenue.

N.B.—This scheme was approved of and adopted by an overwhelming majority at a meeting of all classes of Turkish bondholders, held at Cannon Street Hotel, London, on the 7th December, 1875, by the following Resolution:—

Moved by Mr. Hamond, M.P., seconded by Mr. H. Guedalla, and resolved:—

That the scheme of Mr. Hamond be adopted by this meeting of Turkish bondholders, and be submitted to the Porte as the settlement of the Turkish debts, excepting the Treasury bonds, should they not be included in the text of the Decree.

(Signed) CHAS. FRED. HAMOND,
Chairman of the General Committee of Turkish Bondholders.

London, December 9, 1875.

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

Mr. Stab to Mr. Hamond, M.P.

(Extract.) *Constantinople, December* 2, 1875.

AS announced in my last letter, on Tuesday, I went to the Sublime Porte and had an interview with the Grand Vizier. In delivering your Memorial to His Highness, I explained the purport of its contents, and particularly dwelt upon the necessity that the Government, for its own sake, ought to open negotiations with the bondholders.

His Highness said he had no objection to adopt this course, but he asked me to speak to Artin Effendi on the subject, who had received his instructions. His Highness ordered your letter to be translated into Turkish.

Thence, I went to the Hardjié (Foreign Office), and had an interview with Artin Effendi. I related to him my conversation with the Grand Vizier, to which his Excellency replied, that I may inform the Council officiously that Sadik Pasha, before leaving for Paris, received instructions to put himself in communication with the bondholders represented by their Committees, and that he will most likely do so in conjunction with his Excellency Musurus Pasha. This statement confirms what I announced in my previous letters, and is so far satisfactory to the bondholders.

Inclosure 3 in No. 79.

Mr. Stab to Mr. Hamond, M.P.

(Extract.) *Constantinople, December* 5, 1875.

AT the same time I explained generally what was meant by Mr. Hamond's plan. The Grand Vizier was pleased with the communication, and conveyed indirectly that when a scheme is definitively settled and accepted by all parties, he will then take it into consideration.

A confidential man of the Grand Vizier, who spoke with His Highness on this subject soon after I left, tells me that if the French were equally disposed to agree to one and the same scheme with the English, the Grand Vizier will make no objection to its adoption.

I may here mention that the French have organized themselves powerfully. M. Bourré, the former French Ambassador to the Porte, has accepted the Presidency of the Committee.

I have also had a conversation with Mr. Foster, Director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, on Mr. Hamond's scheme. Mr. Foster seems to be favourable to it.

No. 80.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Hamond, M.P.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 14, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, inclosing a printed statement of the scheme proposed by you for the adjustment of the Ottoman Loans, and requesting his Lordship to instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to give it his moral and unofficial support; and I am, in

reply, to request that you will be good enough to inform Lord Derby whether this scheme is accepted by the French and other foreign bondholders, as his Lordship feels that unless the bondholders are generally agreed upon a concerted scheme, any recommendation to the Porte to give it consideration would probably be of little avail.

I am also to point out to you that the extract from the letter from Mr. Stab, which you have forwarded, merely reports that the Grand Vizier had "conveyed indirectly that when a scheme is definitively settled and accepted by all parties, he will then take it into consideration." This communication does not convey the assurance which his Lordship understood from you yesterday had been received by the bondholders, that the Porte accepted the scheme you propose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 81.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 14, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday's date,† I inclose, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying Report, as published in the newspapers, of the interview I held with the Deputation of Turkish bondholders on that day.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 82.

*The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.**

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 14, 1875.

WITH reference to my other despatch of this day's date respecting the Ottoman Loans, I inclose a copy of a letter from Mr. Hamond on the subject of his scheme for their adjustment,§ and I have to request your Excellency to ascertain and report to me whether this scheme is accepted by the French, and, so far as you may be able to learn, by other foreign bondholders.

I inclose a copy of the reply which I have returned to Mr. Hamond,‖ in which I have put a similar question to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 83.

Mr. Franklin to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 15.)

My Lord, *London Institution, Finsbury Circus, December* 14, 1875.

REFERRING to Lord Tenterden's letter of 10th November, in which I am invited to continue my representations in the interest of the 1862 bondholders, extending over many years, and laid by your Lordship before Parliament, I find occasion to correct some erroneous assumptions made by a Deputation received by your Lordship yesterday. There seems to have been three parties in that Deputation:—

1st. That claiming to intercept the Egyptian tribute, and apparently disposed to countenance any scheme of settlement with others which can be construed as acquiescence in such interception.

2nd. Those holding bonds issued and accepted, subject to express reservations for security of previously existing bonds.

3rd. Those assuming to represent the bondholders entitled to the first fruits of special revenues designed and assigned aborigine for security of advances which had never been made except on such security, although, as now transpires, the receivership of those special revenues for account of the bondholders has been evaded.

It seems that the champion for the general and unsecured bonds declares their amount

* Identic despatch to Lord Lyons. † See No. 76. ‡ No. 77.
§ No. 79. ‖ No. 80.

96,000,000*l.*, and if to that be added sundry issues having only reversionary claims upon securities previously mortgaged, the spectacle is presented of an unequal combat between those banded together for exappropriation of such mortgages, and a small body, without organization, entitled to priority of payment,—a disparity of numbers supposed to be *circa* forty to one against the Anglo-Turkish bondholders of 1862.

As means for such exappropriation, sundry so-called schemes of compromise have been promulgated, more or less astutely devised, for liberating Turkey from part of the payments which she is still able and willing to make, upon condition of manipulating the compromise in favour of unsecured bonds (held largely in Turkey).

Both equity and custom, in cases of insolvency, sub-ordinate the apportionment of realizable assets to the safe custody of them. It is, therefore, worse than premature to scramble for what can best be adjudicated to dissimilar claimants, by an impartial arbitrament suitably constituted.

The mode of settlement proposed by the Porte is much more capable of equitable adjustment than any scheme yet devised by others, and pretended to be approved by indiscriminate assemblages, as explained in certain of my recent letters. Nothing can be more preposterous than to volunteer acceptances of new promises in exchange for their broken predecessors, in view of the custom of the Porte to farm revenues, and of the practicability and necessity of conferring upon us the powers to collect and retain revenues which have heretofore been exercised to our injury.

Your Lordship is relied upon to afford good counsel to the Porte in this emergency, and thereby to discountenance any device for sacrificing, for advantage of others, the just dues of bondholders exclusively British, whose funds were obtained with privity of your Lordship's predecessors and with cognizance of Parliament; whose claims to "official action, as promised," were long ago recognized, *vide* Lord Clarendon's instructions to Her Majesty's Ambassador to Turkey, 23rd October, 1869, and Mr. Otway's letter to me of same date (recently confirmed by him), and whose opportunities to obtain effective securities, when the whole charge of Turkish foreign debt was *circa* 2,500,000*l.*, were defeated by withholding until 1874 the *exposé* previously embodied in this correspondence.

I do not press for an audience, but remain at your Lordship's disposal for suggestion of remedies suited to the emergency, and have, &c.

(Signed) J. S. FRANKLIN.

No. 84.

Mr. Wilson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 15.)

My Lord, *Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, December* 14, 1875.

THE press informs us that a plan or scheme, which may be termed Mr. Hamond's scheme, for dealing with the indebtedness of Turkey, was submitted to your consideration yesterday. I take the liberty of offering some observations and suggestions upon it.

The individuals who advocate that scheme are large capitalists, who hold principally in the oldest loans bought at low prices, and, consequently, are quite content to throw off and give up a considerable sum of the nominal or bond indebtedness, knowing that if they can only make a portion secure to their own satisfaction they must come well out. I feel sure this proposed scheme would not meet the approval of the general holder throughout this and other countries; it is the absolute surrender of both principal and interest, which is not asked for or intended.

A strong point on the part of Turkey is that she does not seek to throw off her indebtedness, but asks for further time for half of it; but it is by the creation of an additional 35,000,000*l.* of indebtedness, and probably the same difficulties at the end of the five years as now exist. How then can her requirements be best met, with a due regard to the interests of the bondholders?

In answer to that I submit the following:—

The investor, as distinguished from the speculator, in Turkish bonds, acquired them for the income yielded, while the latter held them mainly for the annually increasing drawings, the former, from the uncertainty, caring little for these drawings. To assist them, these the *bonâ fide* holders, and increase the value of the bond, I propose the interest be increased from the proposed half, the present, to two-thirds, taking such additional amount out of the fund which would otherwise go to pay a moiety of the drawings on the several loans.

The drawings on all the loans be suspended indefinitely, with the exception of the oldest or longest standing, to which the balance of the fund provided to meet half the

drawings of the several loans, after taking from it the additional interest, from a half to two-thirds, be appropriated, aud so continued until such loan be entirely paid off, when the whole fund, with its accumulations, be appropriated to the payment of the next longest standing one, and so on in rotation.

The effect of this, no doubt, would be that it would be several years before the recent loans would begin to be paid off, but the fact of the existence of a constant and rapidly increasing fund, destined ultimately to pay it off as the previous ones, would maintain and increase their value, particularly as the fund would be so large for the purpose when the time arrived.

The remaining one-third interest on the bonds I propose should be paid by a new bond, bearing 6 per cent. or 5 per cent., not for five years only, but so long as is needful to the Turkish Exchequer. The interest of such new debt annually, when confined to the one-third of interest only, would be but a light and gradually increasing weight.

Were this plan to be adopted in preference to the Hamond scheme, Turkey would be spared the degradation of paying a composition on its indebtedness to other nations, and the bondholder would not materially suffer, the value of the bonds would be maintained, the full relief required would be afforded, while the objectionable features of the Turkish Government Decree would be got rid of.

I hope I have been sufficiently explicit to place the suggested plan properly before your Lordship, and trusting you may consider it such as to be worthy your consideration, I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED WILSON.

No. 85

Mr. Tagart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 15.)

My Lord, 28, *Oriental Place, Brighton, December* 14, 1875.

AFTER the influential deputation of Turkish bondholders received by your Lordship on Monday last, the 13th instant, it is almost in despair that I here protest against including the Treasury bonds in their scheme.

Even supposing that these bonds were intended to be included in the bonded debt, which it is evident the decree of the 7th of October did not contemplate, why should they be treated differently from the other loans? The latter are to have the same rate of interest as originally stipulated, only instead of on the nominal amount it will be on the price of issue, plus 10 per cent., but the interest on the former, or 9 per cent. bonds, is to be cut down arbitrarily by one-third, and a temporary loan converted into a permanent one.

Mr. Hamond proposes to annul the contract under which we took these bonds, at 98½ per cent., in order to present a more favourable appearance and better terms to the Sultan's Government for his whole scheme.

The only course by which I can avert the ruin that thus threatens myself and other holders of these Treasury bonds is to solicit humbly, but most earnestly, your Lordship's attention to the gross injustice of such a proposition, made as it is just six months before the first of the three payments falls due.*

I have, &c.

(Signed) COURTENAY TAGART.

No. 86.

Mr. Hamond, M.P., to Mr. Disraeli.—(Received December 16.)

Sir, *Westminster Palace Hotel, December* 13, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your notice a scheme I have proposed for a settlement of the Turkish Debt, agreed to by all classes of bondholders, by which we give up to the Porte 78,000,000*l.* sterling of debt, and effect a saving of 5½ millions a-year of her revenue, besides precluding the necessity of the further issue of 35,000,000*l.* of bonds, and a consequent 2,000,000*l* a-year interest upon them.

All the bondholders have assented to this great and generous gift being offered to the Porte. The Ministers at Constantinople are favourable to it, and as Chairman of the General Committee of Bondholders, representing loans to the amount of 170,000,000*l.*

* A Bonds fall due July 1876; B, July 1877; C, July 1878.

sterling, I have asked Lord Derby to use his good offices, unofficially, to help to carry out a proposal so immensely beneficial to the future interests of the Porte.

It is of the greatest importance that the dividends payable in January should be paid under this scheme. May I ask, then, your good offices with Lord Derby that a telegram should be sent to our Ambassador at Constantinople to support the same, as time is of the greatest moment.

Trusting you will excuse the liberty I have taken, I have, &c.,

(Signed) CHAS. FRED. HAMOND.

No. 87.

Mr. Carter to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 16.)

Fern Bank, Kidbrooke Grove, Blackheath, S.E.,
December 15, 1875.

My Lord,

I TAKE the liberty of placing before you the two inclosed calculations, to show you the injustice of Mr. Hamond's scheme for the Turkish debt. My Lord, I am interested in the 1869 Loan, and I ask you, my Lord, to protect me against this gross injustice. The 1873 and the 1865 Five per cent. Loans are even worse treated than the 1869 Loan.

Mr. Hamond, after having received 1,180*l.* on each 680*l.* invested, asks you to support a policy which will take from the 1869 bondholders 340*l.* of principal, and 20*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* of annual interest, and asks that the 1862 bondholders shall sacrifice no more than 150*l.* of principal, and 9*l.* of annual interest in every 1,000*l.* I may also say, my Lord, I was on the Committee of the 1865 Five per Cent. Loan, and every hand was held up for the Decree of the 6th October, with the exception of the Chairman's, Mr. Guedalla; how he has fulfilled his trust I leave you, my Lord, to judge. He was delegate in right of being Chairman of the 1865 Loan at the deputation.

I think, my Lord, you would do well to inquire who those persons are who call themselves "the Council of Foreign Bondholders."

Moreover, my Lord, if Mr. Hamond's scheme be carried out, is it not a notice to Spain that she may pay 3 per cent., or 30*l.* and no more, instead of 100*l.*?

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROGER CARTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 87.

Loan of 1862.

(Four-tenths of this Loan has been drawn).

	£	*s.*	*d.*			£	*s.*	*d.*	
Issued at ..	68	0	0	..	Interest ..	6	0	0	As it is.
To be paid off ..	75	0	0	..	„ ..	4	10	0	As Mr. Hamond's scheme will make it.

Loss on interest—
1*l.* 10*s.* × 6 = 9*l.* on each 1,000 stock.

Loss on principal—
25*l.* on each 100*l.* stock, or 150*l.* on each 1,000*l.* stock.

This stock has received 13 years' interest, or 780*l.* on each 680*l.* invested
Four bonds drawn and paid off at 100*l.*, equal to 400*l.*+780*l.*=1,180*l.*
And 6 bonds of 100*l.* each in hand.

Inclosure 2 in No. 87.

Loan of 1869.

	£	*s.*	*d.*			£	*s.*	*d.*	
Issued at ..	60	10	0	..	Interest ..	6	0	0	As it is.
To be paid off ..	66	0	0	..	„ ..	3	19	2	As Mr. Hamond's scheme will make it.

Loss on interest—
2*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.* × 10 = 20*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* on each 1,000*l.* stock.

Loss on principal—
34*l.* on each 100*l.*, or 340*l.* on each 1,000*l.* stock.

Only a fraction of this stock is drawn, not 50*l.* on each 1,000*l.* stock.

No. 88.

Mr. Hamond, M.P., to the Lord Tenterden. -(*Received December* 17.)

My Lord, *Newcastle-on-Tyne, December* 16, 1875.

YOUR letter of the 14th has been forwarded to me here, where I have been unexpectedly called until Friday. I deeply regret this delay occasioned, by your further inquiries, and had hoped that the Deputation had clearly placed before Lord Derby whom they represented and the object they had in view.

The Deputation represented all classes of English Bondholders excepting the 1854 and 1871 Loans, and even to a great extent those of the 1854 Loan, as witness Sir Alfred Slade, and they presented a scheme to his Lordship, which every class of English bondholders had consented to and accepted, by Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Co.'s Committee.

His Lordship was further informed by Mr. Henry Guedalla, Chairman of the Committee representing the General Loan of 1865, that the French papers received that morning had praised the scheme and recommended it for adoption, and I may remark it was impossible to concert a scheme with the French bondholders until we on this side had agreed upon one to present to them, they having waited the action of the English in this matter; and we only ask Lord Derby's good offices as the English Minister to support unofficially English views, and it will be left to the English and French Committees to take joint action, of which there is not much doubt, as the French press still support the scheme, having now all the details of the same in their possession.

I would respectfully submit that if the two extracts from Captain Stab's letter are carefully read, they will strictly bear out what I stated to Lord Derby in our interview, namely, "that the Ministers of the Porte looked favourably upon the scheme," and if presented by English and French Bondholders "it would be accepted," and I regret much that Lord Derby should have misunderstood anything I said, for if the Porte had accepted the scheme I propose, there would have been no necessity for the bondholders to have troubled his Lordship in the matter. All we ask is for the moral and unofficial support of England's Minister to support our English proposition, the only one in existence, and we believe most firmly, from expected advices from Constantinople, that this scheme when presented to the Porte by the English and Foreign bondholders, will be as cordially and frankly accepted by them in the same spirit in which it is offered.

I feel with deep concern that it is rather hard, when, after complying so readily with Lord Derby's suggestion in making an application in writing, that still further delays are taking place, when such a different course was taken at the Foreign Office on a mere verbal application made, as I understood, by Admiral Eden, on the day of the 7th, when, without requesting him to put his request in writing, or even inquiry made as to whom he represented, immediate action was taken on his mere verbal proposal, and Lord Lyons communicated with as quickly as possible, not even the question asked him, as it is of myself, whether "the English and French Committees had concerted a scheme."

I must really press this matter upon the best attention of Lord Derby. I repeat what I told him, that a day's delay may be alike fatal to the Porte and to its bondholders. I earnestly and most respectfully ask his prompt decision, but should he treat with indifference the welfare and future interests of the Turkish Empire, and the wishes of a united Committee so largely representing English bondholders, then, surely, it is not too much to ask Lord Derby for letters to the Ambassadors of England at Paris, Vienna, and Constantinople, and also Sadyk Pasha, to be given me simply as a Member of the House of Commons, but stating I am the gentleman alluded to in the scheme.

I hope to be at the Westminster Palace Hotel on Saturday, and as I have to leave London on Monday for Paris, may I ask for your Lordship's reply to be sent to the above address.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. FRED. HAMOND.

No. 89.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Hamond, M.P.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 17, 1875.

YOUR letter of yesterday received and forwarded to Lord Derby, and his directions requested by telegraph, as he is at Edinburgh.

No. 90.

Mr. Lister to Mr. Hamond, M.P.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1875.

IN reply to your letter of the 16th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that his Lordship has instructed Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Constantinople and Paris, by telegraph, to render you such unofficial assistance as they properly can in submitting your scheme for the adjustment of the Ottoman Debt to the consideration of the Porte, either at Paris, through Sadyk Pasha, or at Constantinople.

I am to add that his Lordship has received several representations on the part of bondholders adverse to the scheme, and has also learned that M. Bourée, the President of the French Committee, is unfavourable to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 91.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1875, 2·30 P.M.

MR. HAMOND, the author of the scheme for the adjustment of the Ottoman Debt accepted by a number of the British bondholders, is going to Paris and Constantinople.

Render him such unofficial assistance as you properly can in submitting his scheme for the consideration of the Porte through Sadyk Pasha.

No. 92.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 13th instant, and to my telegram of the 18th instant, on the subject of Mr. Hamond's scheme for the adjustment of the Ottoman Loans, I transmit to your Excellency herewith, for your information, a copy of a further letter which I have caused to be addressed to that gentleman on the same question.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 93.

Mr Lister to Mr. Franklin.‡

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 18, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, respecting Mr. Hamond's scheme for dealing with the various Ottoman Loans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 94.

Mr. Rowlands to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 20.)

19, *Arundel Gardens, Kensington Park Road, W.,*
My Lord, *December* 18, 1875.

I TAKE the liberty of inclosing some papers which I have written on the Turkish default. Very humbly, I beg to say I do not think English journalists

* Identic telegram to Sir H. Elliot. † No. 90.
‡ Similar letters were addressed to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Tagart.

have looked at the principle involved in accepting Mr. Hamond's scheme in the right light. Acting on his mistaken theory, every country (our own included) might consider it had borrowed on disadvantageous terms, and must endeavour to have them revised.

To admit a principle that a debt has not been honestly accumulated, or raised on usurious terms, opens up a very serious question, for the taxed may argue, the nation never had the real value of the debt, and there is a class in almost every country which, having nothing to lose, would always welcome repudiation.

Every country, like a young spendthrift, seems never to stop until it has accumulated a huge national debt, after which comes the age of discretion, but posterity has to suffer, and fulfil the engagements which have arisen from the extravagance, or it may be the misfortune, of former years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHRIS. ROWLANDS.

No. 95.

Mr. Hyde Clarke to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 21.)

Council of Foreign Bondholders, 10, *Moorgate Street,*
My Lord, *London, E.C., December* 20, 1875.

I AM instructed to inform you that the Commissioners for the Ottoman Loans of 1858 and 1862, acting under the Convention of 1873, have this day appointed Mr. H. A. Withers, one of their members, to act as Commissioner for these loans, in conjunction with Mr. C. F. Hamond, M.P., Commissioner for the General Committee of Turkish Bondholders.

Mr. Withers proceeds to-morrow to Paris, accompanied by Mr. C. A. Ewart, one of the Assistants of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, to negotiate there with his Excellency Sadyk Pasha.

I am therefore desired to request of your Lordship the favour of recommending these gentlemen to the kind offices of Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris, should the occasion arise for their applying to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HYDE CLARKE, *Secretary.*

No. 96.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 21, 1875.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 18th instant, and to previous correspondence respecting Mr. Hamond's scheme for the adjustment of the Ottoman loans, I transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a further letter which I have received from Mr. Hamond on this subject.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 97.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, December* 21, 1875

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the steps now being taken at Paris by the Committees of the Bondholders of the various Ottoman Loans, for the purpose of coming to some arrangement with the Porte on this subject, I now inclose to your Excellency a copy of a letter from Mr. Hyde Clarke,† stating that the Commissioners of the Loans of 1858 and 1862 have appointed Mr. H. A. Withers, who is to proceed to-day to Paris, accompanied by Mr. C. A. Ewart, and who is one of their members, to act as Commissioner for those loans, in conjunction with Mr. C. F. Hamond, the Commissioner for the General Committee of Turkish Bondholders, and who will negotiate with Sadyk Pasha in Paris.

* No. 88. † No. 95.

I have to request that your Excellency will give Mr. Withers and Mr. Ewart such unofficial assistance as you can properly afford them, and of which they may stand in need, in prosecuting the object of their mission to Paris.

I inclose for your Excellency's information copies of a correspondence laid before Parliament respecting the Ottoman Loans of 1858 and 1862, in pages 1 and 2 of which you will find a copy of the Convention of 1873 referred to in Mr. Hyde Clarke's letter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 98.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Hyde Clarke.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 21, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant referring to the appointment of Mr. H. A. Withers, by the Commissioners of the Loans of 1858 and 1862, to proceed to Paris, accompanied by Mr. C. A. Ewart, to act as Commissioner for those loans, in conjunction with Mr. C. F. Hamond, and to negotiate there with Sadyk Pasha

I am to inform you that a copy of your letter will be forwarded this evening to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, with instructions to afford to Mr. Withers and to Mr. Ewart such unofficial assistance as he can properly give them, and of which they may stand in need.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN

No. 99.

*Lord Tenterden to Mr. Carter.**

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 22, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant respecting Mr. Hamond's scheme for dealing with the Ottoman Debt.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 100.

Mr. Hyde Clarke to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 23.)

Council of Foreign Bondholders, 10, *Moorgate Street, London, E.C.,*
My Lord, *December* 22, 1875.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 21st instant, stating that instructions have been forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, as requested in our letter of the 20th instant.

I am requested further by the Commissioners for the Ottoman Loans of 1858 and 1862 to inform your Lordship that Mr. Stab, their agent in Constantinople, has been appointed Commissioner in Constantinople, to act in co-operation with Mr. Hamond, and to request that your Lordship will ask Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to extend to Mr. Stab the same kind offices which have been given to the other Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HYDE CLARKE, *Secretary.*

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* Similar letter to Mr. Rowlands.

No. 101.

Mr. Walne to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received December* 27.)

My Lord, *Hôtel des Anglais, Nice, December* 22, 1875.

WITH reference to the inclosed extract from the "Times" of Monday the 20th instant, I have the honour to represent to your Lordship that, so far as concerns the Ottoman Loan of 1854, Mr. Charles Hamond, M.P. has no authority to represent the bondholders; his whole scheme implies a misrepresentation and sacrifice of their interests for the benefit of other loans not equally well secured.

When, in 1854, at the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, British subjects lent their money to the Porte, they did so with the full assurance that the tribute of Egypt, "irrevocably" assigned, was an excellent security, as no doubt it was, and still is. The circumstance of the British and French Governments taking in the following year a second lien on that security, was a sufficient inducement for trustees and others to purchase the 1854 bonds, till very recently, at a high premium.

The holders of the 1854 Loan argue very fairly that the British and French Governments cannot, as trustees of public money, give up such a security as the Egyptian ribute, on which, by the tripartite Convention of 1855, they hold a lien for that portion of "the annual amount of the tribute of Egypt which remains over and above the part thereof appropriated to the first loan;" and that, whilst maintaining their rights on that second lien, they cannot honestly receive any portion of the annual proceeds till the preference claims of the 1854 Loan have been fully met.

After consulting on this matter with the Chairman of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, who agrees with me, and looking to the equitable bearings of the case, I see no reason why the Ottoman 1854 Loan should not be paid as heretofore, without any abatement whatever. In the interest of others as well as myself, I may be permitted to express a hope that your Lordship will not sanction, or give even unofficial support to, that part of Mr. Hamond's scheme which is calculated to deprive the 1854 bondholders of any portion of their rights. A worse precedent could scarcely be established.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED S. WALNE.

No. 102.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Hyde Clarke.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 29, 1875.

IN compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 22nd instant, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that instructions will be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to give Mr. Stab such unofficial support as he properly can, but in no case can Her Majesty's Government undertake to support him officially.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 103.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Walne.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 29, 1875.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, objecting to Mr. Hamond's scheme for the adjustment of the Ottoman Loans question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 104.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 29, 1875.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency a copy of a letter from Mr. Hyde Clarke,* stating that Mr. Stab, the agent of the bondholders of the Ottoman Loans of 1858 and 1862, has been appointed Commissioner in Constantinople to act n co-operation with Mr. Hammond; and I have to instruct you to give Mr. Stab such unofficial support as you may think proper, but in no case can Her Majesty's Government undertake to support him officially.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 105.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received December 31.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1875.

THE telegram, of which the copy is herewith inclosed, was received this morning from Mr. Staniforth, addressed to Mr. Hughes, with whom he was formerly intimate.

Until instructed by your Lordship, I shall abstain from taking any step in regard to either of the groups of bondholders, and I shall not communicate the telegram to the Porte.

I had already stated that I understood the British bondholders to be unanimous in disapproving of any new issue of papers or the creation of a fresh debt.

I am, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Mr. Staniforth to Mr. Hughes.

(Telegraphic.) *London, December* 23, 1875.

PROJECTED Mission, Hamond, absolutely unauthorized; self-assumed. Otway's position, Agent-General for all loans, remains unchanged. I probably join him as Joint Commissioner. General meeting next week. Protested against unauthorised action. Hamond and group. Oblige me by making this known. Utmost importance. I write post.

No. 106.

Mr. Franklin to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 1, 1876.)

My Lord, *London Institution, Finsbury Circus, December* 29, 1875.

UPON grounds continuously set forth in this correspondence, as laid before Parliament, immediate action on the part of Her Majesty's Government is earnestly claimed, under circumstances set forth below.

There is reason to believe that a suitable remonstrance addressed to the proper parties here in London before the 1st January will avert extreme measures, and keep matters open for reasonable and amicable adjustment.

The Bank of Messrs. Glyn and Co., one of whose partners is a Director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, refuses to pay even 10*s.* in the pound on matured coupons of this Loan, unless the holders surrender the same absolutely, and moreover give, in writing, an implied consent to any edict of the Porte affecting their bonds. The alternative suggested is, sale of the coupons outright, and, say 11*s.* 3*d.* per pound, probably to parties in position to profit by a wrong devised for their advantage. The bondholders, on receipt of the 10*s.* per pound, are willing to a cancellation of the coupons to that extent (as usual in like circumstances), and to wait patiently for any compromise deliberately and impartially commended for their acceptance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. FRANKLIN.

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* No. 100.

No. 107.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 5, 1876.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1875.

YOUR Lordship has instructed me to ascertain and report whether Mr. Hamond's scheme for the adjustment of the interest upon the Ottoman Loans has been accepted by the French and other Foreign Bondholders.

The French Ambassador, whom I saw this morning, told me that he was entirely without information as to the manner in which Mr. Hamond's proposal was regarded in Paris.

Mr. Stab, the agent of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, told me yesterday that he also had received no intimation of it having been accepted by the French, and I am not aware whether any steps have been taken to secure the adherence of those of other countries.

I was informed that the Grand Vizir was inclined to look favourably upon the proposal, but it is not likely to receive serious attention till it can be presented to the Porte as a scheme representing the wishes of the great bulk of the bondholders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 108.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Franklin.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 6, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, stating the circumstances under which you urge that immediate action should be taken by Her Majesty's Government in behalf of the bondholders of the Ottoman Loan of 1862, and I am to inform you in reply that Her Majesty's Government cannot interfere in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 109.

Mr. Palmer to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 8.)

My Lord, *Bank of England, London, January* 8, 1876.

REFERRING to the letter which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 23rd November last (although I have since observed with regret that the date was omitted), and the reply your Lordship was good enough to give under date of the 30th of the same month, acceding to my request that such unofficial support as was possible should be given to Mr. Arthur Otway in the mission entrusted to him as the representative of all English holders of Turkish bonds; it is now my duty to inform your Lordship that circumstances have since occurred which prevent Mr. Otway from continuing to fulfil the duties of the mission with which he was at that time entrusted.

The consequence of this state of things is that the firm of Dent, Palmer & Co., of which I am the head, consider it their duty, as representing the contractors and agents of the Egyptian Tribute Loans, negotiated in 1854 and 1871, as well as of the loan secured by the customs revenues of Constantinople in 1858, to use their best efforts for the interests of the holders of the bonds of those loans, interests which are gravely threatened by the terms of the Decree issued in Constantinople on the 6th October last.

To this end it is my intention to send my son, Mr. Greville Horsley Palmer, to Constantinople, that he may submit to the Porte the grounds on which we maintain that special circumstances attach to these loans, which entitle them to peculiar consideration. In order that my son may receive from the Porte the attention due to the importance of his mission, I respectfully ask your Lordship to be kind enough to authorize Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to accord to him all the

unofficial support which it was at one time my hope and expectation would only have been required on behalf of Mr. Otway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. HAWLEY PALMER.

No. 110.

Mr. Webb to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 10.)

My Lord, *High Park Lodge, Ryde, Isle of Wight, January* 3, 1876.

I VENTURE to ask your Lordship's intentions as to the continued remittance of the Egyptian tribute to the Bank of England for the service of the latter of these loans [1855].

Your Lordship is aware that on your decision depends the safety of the holders of the former loan—the first mortgagees of Turkey—who are now, with singular injustice, called upon to share their security with other and later creditors. With an apology for again troubling you on this subject, I am, &c.,

(Signed) J. G. HERBERT WEBB.

No. 111.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1876.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. E. H. Palmer,* stating that circumstances have occurred which prevent Mr. Otway from proceeding to Constantinople as the Representative of all English holders of Turkish bonds.

The firm of Dent, Palmer, and Co., in view of this state of things, consider it their duty, as representing the contractors and agents of the Egyptian Tribute Loans of 1854 and 1871, and the Customs Loan of 1858, to send out an agent in the interest of the holders of the bonds of those loans.

The agent selected is Mr. Greville Horsley Palmer, and Mr. Palmer, his father, begs that the same unofficial support may be extended to him which had formerly been promised to Mr. Otway.

I have accordingly to instruct your Excellency to assist Mr. Palmer unofficially, and you will be guided as to the manner and extent of such assistance by the terms of my despatch No. 388 of November 30, desiring you to extend similar good offices to Mr. Otway.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 112.

Memorandum on Ottoman Loans, by a Holder of certain Bonds.—(*Received January* 11.)

Turkish Loans of 1854, 1855, *and* 1871.—*Suggestion to protect England and France from liability on part of Loan of* 1855.

THE original tribute of Egypt of 281,000*l.* covers the interest and sinking fund of the Loan of 1854, and leaves a balance of 71,000*l.* for the Loan of 1855, guaranteed by France and England, and requiring a sum of 250,000*l.* annually, so England and France must provide 180,000*l.* yearly, or obtain it from the Customs duties of Smyrna and Salonica hypothecated for the same. The present amount of the sinking fund for the Loan of 1854 is 90,000*l.*, and for that of 1871 is 70,000*l.*, and the new Egyptian Tribute of 1866, viz., 399,000*l.*, is the exact sum required for the 570,000*l.* of Loan of 1871.

I propose to surrender to the Governments of England and France 39,000*l.* out of the sinking fund for the Loan of 1854, and 39,000*l.* out of that for Loan of 1871.

So far as respects my bonds—

* No. 109.

	£
Balance of Tribute of 1841	71,000
	39,000
	39,000
Total	149,000

This will enable England and France to pay the interest on 3,700,000*l.*, the present amount of the Loan of 1855, and let the sinking fund thereon cease, and then the whole obligation of England and France will be met out of the Egyptian Tribute.

The Porte to consent to the extension of time for redemption of Loans of 1854 and 1871, owing to reduced sinking funds, and to the cessation of that for Loan of 1855, and so to give 149,000*l.* of Tribute of Egypt permanently to France and England, and, in condition thereof, Turkey to be wholly released from Loans of 1854, 1855, and 1871, England and France guaranteeing to bondholders the continued allocation of the Tribute, save as aforesaid:—

(Signed) A Holder of 1,400*l.* Loan of 1854.
„ 1,400*l.* „ 1871.
„ 700*l.* „ 1855.

No. 113.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 12, 1876.

THE official announcement that the Government are in a position to pay the January coupons has given great satisfaction, as doubts had been entertained up to the last moment. This is the first time for many years that the coupon has been paid from revenue and not from the produce of a loan.

No. 114.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received January* 19.)

My Lord, 19, *Cromwell Road, January* 16, 1876.

YOUR Lordship having been so good, on the request of Mr. Palmer, the Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, and Chairman of the United Committees of Turkish Bondholders, as to instruct Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Paris and Constantinople to give me their unofficial aid in furtherance of the mission with which I was charged by the above-named committees, I feel it a duty to inform your Lordship that it is no longer my intention to proceed on the mission to Constantinople on account of which Mr. Palmer's requests were made.

The reasons for this are stated in the accompanying extract from the "Times" newspaper, which I inclose as the most convenient form of bringing them to your Lordship's knowledge.

I take this opportunity to submit to your Lordship, that it is desirable in the interest of Her Majesty's Government that the tribute to Egypt should continue to be paid to the Bank of England, and assigned for the satisfaction of the interest due on the Loans of 1854, 1855, and 1871, and that Mr. Greville Palmer, a member of the firm of Kent, Palmer and Co., is about to proceed to Constantinople to effect, if possible, an arrangement with the Ottoman Government in this sense. Should your Lordship take this view of the settlement of a matter which will, if dealt with according to the decree of October, encounter legal difficulties here and cause great dissatisfaction, there can be little doubt that the aid which Mr. Greville Palmer would in that case receive from Her Majesty's Ambassador would secure that measure of success which would content those who are interested in the loans secured by the Egyptian Tribute, and at the same time avoid the risk of liability to the Governments of England and France on account of their guarantee to the Loan of 1855.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR OTWAY.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Extract from the "Times."

THE TURKISH DEFAULT.—Yesterday, at the invitation of Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Company, a meeting of the holders of the Turkish Loans of 1854, 1858, and 1871, was held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, "to receive a report of the proceedings since the meeting of the 21st of October, 1875." Mr. E. H. Palmer (a member of the firm), the Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England, presided, and there was a crowded attendance.

The Chairman, after briefly alluding to the meeting held on the 21st of October, and its result, referred to the interview which the committee then appointed had with Lord Derby, when it was distinctly intimated by his Lordship that much advantage would accrue to everybody if the committee which then waited on him could be considered to represent all the Turkish bondholders. They then took every measure to bring about such a state of affairs, and after considerable negotiation and labour they thought they had succeeded, and two members of the Moorgate Street committees were invited to join their committee. Mr. Eykyn and Mr. Bennoch were the gentlemen nominated on their committee, and they considered that in that capacity they had a united committee, representing all Turkish interests, and that they considered was the state of affairs at the present time. (Hear, hear.) He thought he was justified in regarding affairs in this light, from the fact that Mr. Bennoch and Mr. Eykyn were both present when Lord Derby was addressed, and when he was asked to accredit Mr. Otway to Constantinople as the representative of the united interests. (Hear, hear). Mr. Otway left London to carry out the instructions given him, and to see how far an agreement could be arrived at with the French interests, which was absolutely necessary before they could hope to see any plan favourably received at the Porte. A meeting to confirm these proceedings was held on the 7th ultimo, and as Mr. Bennoch was present at the Bank the day before, when the resolutions to be submitted were agreed to, he was in hopes of the proceedings being unanimous. They had previously instructed Mr. Otway to make Mr. Hamond's scheme the basis of his negotiations with the French committee. At the meeting, however, Mr. Hamond, whose name was on the committee they then proposed to form, objected altogether to the names of the gentlemen whom they expected to carry out the negotiations, and Mr. Bennoch supported him. The consequence was that, although the meeting accepted the resolution as it had been prepared and submitted, Mr. Hamond formed a committee of his own, and determined to carry out his own plans entirely irrespective of French interests. By this action he had done himself no good, and the consequence had been to paralyze and prevent any continuance of those negotiations which had been begun with the French committee, and Mr. Otway could not continue those exertions which he had brought to such a very satisfactory condition. Therefore, whatever might happen eventually with reference to the general interests of Turkish bondholders, the question was suspended so long as Mr. Hamond continued in his present course, and the action of the committee acting as the united committee was paralyzed for the time. That being the case, Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Company, as the contractors and agents of the three loans, considered that the responsibility of doing what they could for the holders, in advocating their interests, had reverted to them (hear, hear), but more especially with regard to the Loans of 1854 and 1871. It would not do for them to await the proceedings of Mr. Hamond at Constantinople. (Hear, hear). There were questions of great and vital importance at that moment pending with reference to the Tribute Loan of 1854, rendering it absolutely essential that powers should be given to his firm to enter into an amicable arrangement with the Turkish Government. They might say as an alternative, "We will do nothing, we will trust to the laws of the country, and we will have the full amount of the tribute appropriated by the original contracts." This, however, would involve very serious legal proceedings, and he did not think they were desirable, nor was it the opinion of very large holders of the stock. The present action was being taken by Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Company, and was not a proceeding of the united committee. He personally represented between 600,000*l.* or 700,000*l.*, so they would see he was speaking with some authority. He hoped and believed they would not have to appeal to the Court of Chancery for the present, but it was not impossible, and therefore it was necessary that powers should be given to Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Company to send a gentleman to Constantinople to enter into an amicable arrangement with the Porte, so as to insure the continued transmission of the tribute to the Bank of England. (Hear, hear). This was the state of

affairs with regard to the Loans of 1854 and 1871, but they thought it right not to exclude the holders of the 1858 Loan, and it was their intention to do everything they could for them. It seemed almost impossible to suppose that the Porte, unless at the very last extremity, would divert a security, part of which was assigned to the Governments of France and Italy. The two loans of 1854 and 1855 were so interwoven that nothing but the very greatest pressure would induce the Sultan to divert the security from its proper destination. Looking, however, to the present state of Turkey, he thought it was their interest to make an amicable arrangement with the Porte, and to make some concessions in order to put beyond doubt the question of the continued remittance of the tribute to the Bank of England. (Hear, hear). There were various rumours and reports about, and there was a report on Friday last that the tribute had been diverted, and the consequence was that the stock went down several per cent. If they could be assured of its continued remittance, he thought it would be well worth while to make some concession. (Hear, hear). He regretted that Mr. Otway, through a severe attack of neuralgia, was unable to be present, but he had received a most important letter, which he had requested him to read. It was as follows:—

"Dear Mr. Palmer, "19, *Cromwell Road, January* 10.

"To my great regret, I am deprived of all hope of being able to leave my room to-day. I was very anxious to attend the meeting called by your firm, desirous especially, to urge on the holders of tribute loans the necessity, at this juncture, of union among themselves, and the avoidance of proceedings such as those by which the position of the holders of the other Turkish loans has been so much injured. I should have borne testimony, also, to the care which you took in your communications with me in Paris to reserve the rights of the holders of these loans. The special claims of the 1854 bondholders are incontestable. I cannot believe that these claims will be ignored by a Minister with views so just on all matters as Lord Derby, and I can repeat the assurance which I gave you after my interview with the Duc Decazes that in any steps which Lord Derby may think fit to take, unofficially or otherwise, in favour of the bondholders, he will have the cordial co-operation of the eminent statesman who presides over Foreign Affairs in France. The tribute loans form, in my opinion, the pivot on which the movements of all the Turkish bondholders should turn. The special circumstances attending them may yet induce the Porte to see a wise policy in the withdrawal of a Decree which has caused dismay to those who believe in the honour and good faith of the Ottoman Government. His Imperial Majesty the Sultan and the Ottoman Government have resources at their command beyond those which have been assigned to the bondholders, and this is a matter on which respectful but firm representations might be made with advantage at Constantinople. I wish it were still in my power to fulfil your desire and continue at Constantinople the negotiations so favourably commenced in Paris, but certain proceedings, to which I have adverted in my correspondence with you, prevent the hope that I could be useful there now either to you or the bondholders. I always considered that the first step in our negotiations should be to establish concert between the Turkish bondholders in England and those in other countries, holding in the aggregate so much larger a portion of the Turkish debt, but especially in France; and this view had the cordial concurrence of the distinguished gentleman, M. Bourré, formerly French Ambassador at Constantinople, who presides over the French Committee of Defence. Our negotiations were based on Mr. Hamond's scheme, and were making fair progress when that member of Parliament, speaking at a public meeting in London of the French Committee in language which I will not repeat, and which I am sure he must now regret, declared that his scheme must be accepted pure and simple, and this untoward declaration found, among other supporters, a member of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, who was also a member of your Committee, and who, up to that moment, had concurred in the proceedings of your Committee, approving especially the letter in which you ask Lord Derby for unofficial support of myself in Paris and Constantinople as the representative of all the Turkish bondholders in England. Under these circumstances a continuation of the negotiations in Paris became useless, and the French Committee soon afterwards notified to the Grand Vizier their refusal to accept the scheme of Mr. Hamond as a settlement. Mr. Hamond has, I understand, now gone to Constantinople to advocate his scheme, and as it deals unjustly with the tribute bondholders, I think you would do well for the holders of the loans of 1854 and 1871 to send some one in whom you can confide to Constantinople to represent their interests.

"I am, &c.

(Signed) "Arthur Otway."

That, continued the Chairman, was Mr. Otway's determination, and he was sorry for it. It was now, however, his intention to send a member of their firm there. (Hear, hear). He would have the advantage of representing the actual contractors, at all events, and at any rate they would do their best for the bondholders. He then moved the following resolution:—

"That Messrs. Dent, Palmer, and Co. be, and they are hereby authorized by and on behalf of the bondholders of the Tribute Loans of 1854 and 1871, to take such steps and to enter into such arrangements and effect such compromises ("no no") as they may consider desirable and necessary to insure the continued transmission of the Egyptian tribute to England." (Cheers.)

Sir Philip Rose having seconded the resolution,

A discussion ensued, in which several bondholders took part.

No. 115.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Webb.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 19, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, requesting information respecting the intention of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the Ottoman Loans of 1854 and 1855, and I am to inform you in reply that instructions have already been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to give unofficial assistance to the representatives of the 1854 bondholders who have proceeded thither for the purpose of laying their case before the Porte, and Lord Derby cannot undertake to interfere further on behalf of the bondholders of the Loan of 1854 either in regard to the Egyptian Tribute or otherwise.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 116.

Mr. W. Fitzgerald to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 19.)

My Lord, *Shelburne Hotel, Stephen's Green, Dublin, January* 17, 1876.

HAVING had a good deal to do with Eastern affairs, and being a holder to a small extent of Turkish bonds of 1871, I desire to bring officially before you a suggestion, thinking it may prove useful in a public point of view, if acted on.

It is, that there exists no reason which I am aware of, why the Turkish bonds of 1854, 1855, and 1871 should not all be secured on the total amount of tribute paid by Egypt to the Sultan. If the English and French Governments would permanently arrange with the Sultan and Khedive to this effect, the yearly drawings might well be dispensed with by the holders, so considerably would the value of the 1854, 1855, and 1871 bonds be improved.

One result would be, that thus the Egyptian tribute would supply a sufficient fund to meet the interest on the 1855 bonds; at present, I believe, in case of default by the Sultan, England and France must look to other Turkish resources (customs duties, &c.), to indemnify them for paying according to their guarantee, which, of course, they would do in any event. It might not be easy to collect revenues anywhere but in Egypt.

I feel you can better judge than I, as to all this, possessed as you are of official information, but I venture unhesitatingly to believe, that you agree with me in a wish to maintain British interests in Egypt, by measures merely calculated to do justice to our rights, especially as regards those rights connected with Indian transit, which, in large measure, must determine the decision of many questions relating to Egypt. The preponderance of British power acting on Egypt, naturally and necessarily and without the least exertion of force, is complete, and will every day increase, both in its absolute extent, and relatively, as compared with the influence possessed by any other nation than our own.

This note is written without communication with anyone, with the object I have stated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. VESEY FITZGERALD.

No. 117.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. W. Fitzgerald.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 22, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant on the subject of the Turkish bonds of 1854, 1855, and 1871.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 118.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 27, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and I am to inform you in reply that a letter of introduction to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, has already been given to Mr. G. Palmer but that Her Majesty's Government cannot interfere officially in behalf of the 1854 bondholders, either as regards the Egyptian Tribute or otherwise.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 119.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received January 27.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 12, 1876.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a very important letter which has been addressed by the Grand Vizier to the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

The Bank is to be authorized to incash, for the service of the public debt, the whole of the revenues of the Custom-house of Constantinople, after deducting the expenses of that administration, and is to appoint one of its own officers to control its accounts.

This is an addition to the other revenues guaranteed by the Iradé of October to the service of the debt, which the Government divests itself of applying to any other purpose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Extract from "La Turquie" of January 27, 1876.

NOUS reproduisons ci-après la lettre que son Altesse le Grand Vézir vient d'adresser, à la date du 9 Janvier, à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, au sujet de l'exécution des dernières mesures financières. Ce document est de ceux qui sont au-dessus de l'éloge et rendent tout commentaire superflu. Nous exprimerons seulement une observation qui viendra à l'esprit de tous les lecteurs ; c'est que l'énergie du Gouvernement pour faire face à ses nouveaux engagements défie toute défaillance.

Des affectations spéciales avaient garanti les paiements à effectuer. Mais les revenus formant ces affectations étaient partiellement engagés, de telle sorte qu'ils n'ont pas été suffisants pour l'objet auquel ils étaient destinés. Que fait le Gouvernement ? Il comble la différence avec ses propres ressources. C'est ainsi que nous voyons pour la première fois le Trésor assurer le service de la dette sans avoir recours aux emprunts. C'est là un fait considérable. Il est la meilleure réponse aux commentateurs malveillants, aux appréciations pessimistes qui, dans ces derniers temps, se sont donné libre carrière.

On remarquera que par les dispositions de la lettre du Grand Vézir, ainsi que grâce au concours que la Banque Impériale Ottomane ne manquera pas de prêter aux

intentions loyales du Gouvernement, le service de la dette publique est désormais assuré et garanti.

Son Altesse Mahmoud Pacha n'a qu'à poursuivre son œuvre avec la force de volonté dont il a donné tant de preuves. Tous les amis de l'Empire sont avec lui.

" Son Altesse le Grand-Vézir à la direction de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

" Messieurs,

" Vous n'ignorez pas qu'aux termes de la déclaration faite et publiée par la Sublime Porte le 6 Octobre, 1875, en vertu d'un Iradé Impérial, la moitié des intérêts et des amortissements de la dette publique de l'Empire doit se faire pendant une période de cinq ans en espèces, et l'autre moitié en nouvelles obligations 5 pour cent, dont les intérêts payables également en espèces; que tous ces paiements ont été garantis par le tribut d'Egypte et par les revenues des Douanes, du sel, et du tabac, revenus auxquels on devra ajouter en cas d'insuffisance la partie nécessaire de la taxe sur les moutons; qu'ainsi des garanties réelles ont été données aux contractants de nos emprunts et aux porteurs de nos obligations; qu'enfin il a décidé de consigner les fonds des dites affectations à la Banque Impériale Ottomane et aux Syndics qui doivent être nommés à cet effet pour fonctionner sous la surveillance et avec la co-opération de la même Banque.

" Vu le court intervalle de temps qui restait entre la date de la dite déclaration officielle et celle du coupon de Janvier 1876, le Gouvernement Impérial, voulant pendant cet espace de deux mois et demi assurer à temps et intégralement ce service, a fait remettre, par le Ministère Impérial des Finances à la Banque Ottomane, 2,000,000*l.* sterling, prélevées non-seulement sur les affectations en question, mais encore sur d'autres revenus de l'Empire.

" Ces 2,000,000*l.* sterling se décomposent ainsi qu'il suit :

" Six cent et tant de mille livres sterling pour les échéances des Emprunts de 1860, 1862, 1864, et 1865 ;

" Sept cent et tant de mille livres sterling pour donner des facilités aux contractants des avances dont le terme a été prolongé ;

" Six cent mille livres sterling pour le service du coupon de la dette générale, 5 pour cent échéant le $\frac{1}{13}$ Janvier, 1876.

" Outre ces versements, le Trésor Impérial a payé, aux fondés de pouvoirs des contractants des bons du Trésor, 100,000*l.* sterling. De même il s'est proposé d'acheter pour 100,000*l.* dont il a payé déjà la moitié, ceux des coupons de la dette générale qui doivent être remboursés à Constantinople.

" A l'heure qu'il est il ne reste plus à payer pour le service du coupon à Constantinople que 170,000*l.* sterling et pour celui des bons du Trésor 100,000*l.* sterling. Le terme de ces derniers payements n'étant pas encore expiré, et dès lors la Banque Impériale ayant encore du temps devant elle pour y parfaire sur ses affectations, il n'existe donc plus pour elle la moindre difficulté.

" De ce qui précède vous comprendrez aisément, Messieurs, que tout le service précité ayant été dès à présent assuré sur les revenus déjà donnés en garanties et sur certains autres en dehors de ces affectations, et ce à cause du très court intervalle de temps, vous comprendrez, dis-je, que le moment est arrivé, d'après le principe arrêté par le Gouvernement Impérial, de laisser pour l'avenir également, à la Banque Ottomane, le soin de garantir aux porteurs de nos obligations, pour le service du coupon et de l'amortissement de la dette publique de l'Empire, des affectations qui ont été spécifiées dans la susdite déclaration officielle du 6 Octobre, 1875, sans que le Gouvernement puisse leur donner une autre destination.

" En conséquence, la Banque est autorisée en vertu d'un Iradé Impérial à se faire consigner entre les mains, à dater de ce jour, tous les revenus de l'administration impériale des contributions indirectes, après en avoir déduit les dépenses de cette administration, ainsi que le service de peu d'importance du coupon des Séhims et autres qui se fait jusqu'à ce jour et dont le chiffre est connu. Le tout sans préjudice de ce qui a été mentionné dans la même déclaration du 6 Octobre relativement aux Syndics.

" L'administration précitée vient de recevoir des ordres dans ce sens.

" De son côté la Banque Impériale Ottomane est invitée à se mettre, sans retard, en mesure de remplir cette mission en désignant un de ses employés, chargé de contrôler d'une manière permanente le mouvement et les comptes des caisses de la Douane de Constantinople pour le versement intégral entre ses mains de l'excédant des recettes,

sans avoir nullement le droit de s'immiscer dans les affaires de l'administration dont il s'agit.

"Veuillez, &c."

(Translation.)

WE reproduce below the letter which his Highness the Grand Vizier addressed under date of January 9th to the Imperial Ottoman Bank, on the subject of the execution of the late financial measures. The document is one of those which are beyond all praise and render all remarks superfluous. We will only give expression to one observation which will occur to every one of our leaders; and that is, that the energy of the Government in meeting its new engagements relieves us from all our fears.

Special assignments had guaranteed the payments which had to be made. But the revenues which formed these assignments were partially pledged, so that they did not suffice for the object to which they were destined. What does the Government do? It makes good the difference from its own resources. Thus we see the Treasury for the first time meeting the service of the debt without having recourse to loans. This is an important fact. It is the best answer to the unfriendly commentaries and pessimist appreciations which have lately circulated so freely.

It will be remarked that, by the dispositions of the letter of the Grand Vizier, and thanks to the co-operation which the Imperial Ottoman Bank will not fail to give to the loyal intentions of the Government, the service of the public debt is henceforth assured and guaranteed.

His Highness Mahmoud Pasha has only to continue his task with that firm will of which he has given so many proofs. All the friends of the Empire are on his side.

"His Highness the Grand Vizier to the Direction of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

"Gentlemen,

"You are aware that, according to the terms of the declaration made and published by the Sublime Porte on October 6, 1875, in virtue of an Imperial Iradé, half of the interest and sinking fund of the public debt of the Empire is to be paid during a period of five years in cash, and the other half in new 5 per cent. bonds, the interest of which will be also payable in cash; that all these payments have been guaranteed by the Egyptian tribute and by the revenues of the Customs, and of the salt and tobacco taxes, to which will be added, if they prove insufficient, as much as may be necessary of the sheep tax; that thus real guarantees have been given to the contractors of our loans, and to the holders of our bonds; and that, lastly, it has been decided to pay the produce of the said assignments to the Imperial Ottoman Bank and to the Syndics who are to be nominated with the object of working under the superintendence and with the co-operation of the said Bank.

"In view of the short interval of time which remained between the date of the said declaration and the falling due of the January coupon of 1876, the Imperial Government, anxious during this period of two months and a half to make provision betimes and integrally for this service, remitted through the Imperial Ministry of Finance to the Ottoman Bank 2,000,000*l.* sterling, which were raised not only from the assignments in question, but also from other revenues of the Empire.

"This 2,000,000*l.* may be subdivided as follows:—

"600,000*l.* odd to meet the requirements of the Loans of 1860, 1862, 1864, and 1865.

"700,000*l.* odd for giving facilities to Contractors for advances, the term of which has been extended.

"600,000*l.* for the service of the coupon of the general debt, 5 per cent. falling due on $\frac{1}{13}$ January, 1876.

"Besides these payments the Imperial Treasury paid to the Agents of the Contractors for Treasury Bonds 100,000*l.* sterling. In the same way it was proposed to buy up to 100,000*l.* (half of which sum has been already paid), of those coupons of the general debt, which are to be repaid at Constantinople.

At the present moment there only remains to be met 170,000*l.* for the service of the coupons at Constantinople, and 100,000*l.* for that of the Treasury bonds. The term of these last payments not having yet expired, and the Bank therefore having time before her to recoup herself out of the assignments, there exists no longer the slightest difficulty for her.

"From what precedes you will easily understand, gentlemen, that all the aforesaid services having been now assured upon the revenues already given in guarantee and upon

certain other revenues separate from these assignments, and this, on account of the short interval of time; you will understand, I say, that the moment has arrived, according to the principle laid down by the Imperial Government, to leave for the future in the same way to the Ottoman Bank the task of guaranteeing to the holders of our bonds, for the service of the coupons and sinking fund of the public debt of the Empire, the assignments which have been specified in the above-mentioned official declaration of October 6, 1875, without the Government being able to give them any other destination.

"Consequently the Bank is authorized, in virtue of an Imperial Iradé, to receive from this date all the revenues of the Imperial Administration of Indirect Contributions, after having deducted the expenses of that Administration, as well as the less important service of the coupon of the Séhims and others, which is continued till to-day. and the amount of which is known. All this without prejudice to what was laid down in the same declaration of October 6 relative to the Syndics.

"The aforesaid Administration has received orders to this effect.

"On its side the Imperial Ottoman Bank is requested to put itself in a position without delay to fulfil this mission by nominating one of its employés, whose duty it will be permanently to control the transactions and accounts of the Customs Department of Constantinople with a view to the integral payment into his hands of the surplus receipts, without, however, his having any right to interfere in the business of the Administration in question."

No. 120.

Mr. Otway to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 2.)

Dear Lord Derby, 19, *Cromwell Road, February* 2, 1876.

I HOPE you will pardon my sending you the inclosed note which I have just received from Mr. Palmer, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

It has always appeared to me to concern Her Majesty's Government that entire security should be obtained against any liability on account of the guarantee of England and France for the Loan of 1855, by a continued and certain remission of the Tribute of Egypt to the Bank of England.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR OTWAY.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Mr. Palmer to Mr. Otway.

My dear Otway, *Bank of England, February* 2, 1876.

ONE line just to say my son arrived at Constantinople on the 30th, and on the following day (the 31st) had an audience of the Grand Vizier, who received his proposals and agreed to take them into consideration. This I learn by a telegram received yesterday. Under these circumstances you see that this is now the time when whatever unofficial aid can be rendered should be put in motion.

Would you mind bringing this state of affairs before Lord Derby and suggesting to him to instruct Sir Henry Elliot to intimate to the Grand Vizier that if in the negotiation with my son entire provision for the Loan of 1855 can be charged on the Egyptian Tribute, the arrangement will be very acceptable to the English Government.

In this way Lord Derby will be relieved from any direct interference in favour of the bondholders of 1854.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. HOWLEY PALMER.

No. 121.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 8, 1876, 1·20 P.M.

MR. PALMER tells me that Her Majesty's Government are favourable to the proposal he is making to the Porte, under which the Egyptian tribute would be secured

for service of loans which he represents, and of the loan guaranteed by English and French Governments.

I should be glad to know to what extent this is correct.

No. 122.

Mr. Franklin to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 11.)

My Lord, *London Institution, Finsbury Circus, February* 11, 1876.

I BEG leave to acknowledge receipt of Lord Tenterden's letter of 6th January, and observing therefrom that it has not been found convenient to convey, in manner suggested, the remonstrance of the 1862 bondholders against misappropriation of funds held for their account specifically, and against the impounding of their overdue coupons when presented for payment. Your Lordship is relied upon as heretofore for laying the correspondence before Parliament.

In this case, the injury sustained is not simply evasion of distinctive pledges, but the laying of violent hands on moneys identifiable as private property. And the wrong is perpetrated not so much in despite of the part taken by Her Majesty's Government in inducing subscriptions to this loan, as in consequence of the part so taken, and held to excuse the Ottoman Bank (contractors for the loan) from the duty of championing the bondholders.

Thus, while bondholders of other Ottoman loans, and creditors for unsecured and unfunded debts find their respective champions, we the 1862 bondholders are subjected to the antagonism, open and covert, of our quasi-representatives, those whom Her Majesty's Government originally commended to our confidence. In a communication to your Lordship from the Imperial Ottoman Bank, laid before Parliament, that institution, arrogating the function of our representative, surrendered to the Porte, for advantage of itself and others, the very safeguards which had, from the first, been the main reliance of the 1862 bondholders.

Your Lordship is aware that indiscriminate gatherings of so-called Turkish creditors seek to override *bonâ fide* bondholders; that persons whose vocation is to profit by violent fluctuations producible in prices of stocks, can destroy the fitness of such stocks for legitimate investment, and that, in a recent meeting, it was unblushingly avowed that the unsecured and unfunded debts of Turkey will prove the best paying speculation, because such are the holdings of those who administer and manipulate Turkish revenues.

In such circumstances, and until the Porte seek, as heretofore, the councils of Her Majesty's Government, your Lordship is relied upon for the publication of the facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. FRANKLIN.

No. 123.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1876, 5·50 P.M.

IN reply to your telegram of the 8th instant, Her Majesty's Government have not promised and cannot instruct you to do more than give your unofficial assistance to Mr. Palmer, or other representatives of the bondholders, to procure that their proposals shall be submitted to the Porte.

No. 124.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received February* 13.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 30, 1876.

MR. HAMOND arrived here a few days ago, and upon his calling upon me I informed him of the instructions I had received from your Lordship to give him such unofficial assistance as I properly could.

Mr. Greville Palmer having also arrived delivered to me a similar introduction from your Lordship.

The Turkish Ministers sometimes ask me which of these gentlemen they are to regard as representing the British bondholders, to which I reply that while Mr. Palmer represents the Tribute Loans, Mr. Hamond is here in support of the scheme which he proposed, and which I understood to have received the general approval of the bulk of the bondholders, and every consideration should be given to the propositions which they may lay before the Porte.

The estimate of each of these gentlemen as to their respective titles to be regarded as representing the bondholders is so different that I am constrained to be very cautious in supporting either of them, although their immediate objects do no not appear necessarily antagonistic—that of Mr. Palmer being to retain for the Tribute Loans the special securities affected to them, which need not perhaps be incompatible with Mr. Hamond's scheme for the manner in which the reduction of the interest on the debt should be carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 125.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Otway.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1876.

IN reply to your letter of the 2nd instant I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that his Lordship regrets that he cannot depart from the intimation conveyed to you in my letter of the 27th ultimo, or do more than instruct Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to give his unofficial assistance to Mr. G. Palmer or other representatives of the bondholders to procure that their proposals should be submitted to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 126.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Franklin.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant on the subject of the Ottoman Loan of 1862.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 127.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 18.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 8, 1876.

MR. HAMOND left Constantinople yesterday to return to London.

The uncertainty felt by the Porte whether Mr. Hamond fully represented the body of British holders of Turkish bonds prevented the Porte from giving a definite answer to his proposal, but he was informed that if he can show that his project is unanimously or generally supported by them the Porte will be disposed to give it a favourable consideration.

Mr. Hamond was much satisfied with the courtesy and attention which he met with from the Turkish Ministers, and received the present of a gold snuff box from the Grand Vizier.

Mr. Greville Palmer, who called upon me this morning, said that he had learnt from England that Her Majesty's Government are favourable to the proposal which he is making to the Porte, of which one provision is that the Egyptian Tribute should continue to be secured for the payment of the interest of the loans which he represents, and also for that of 1855, guaranteed by the British and French Governments.

I should be glad to know to what extent Her Majesty's Government approves of Mr. Palmer's proposals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 128.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 24, 1876.

IN reply to your despatch of the 8th instant, requesting to be informed to what extent Her Majesty's Government approve Mr. Palmer's proposal for the adjustment of the Ottoman Loans, I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have not promised, and cannot instruct you to do more than give your unofficial assistance to Mr. Palmer, or to other representatives of the bondholders, with the view of obtaining the consideration of their proposals by the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 129.

Mr. Morison to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 24.)

My Lord, *St. Stephen's Chambers, Westminster, February* 23, 1876.

I HAVE been instructed to take the liberty of informing your Lordship that the mission of Sir Philip Rose and Mr. J. Staniforth, on behalf of Turkish bondholders, as announced in Mr. Palmer's Circular of 21st instant, is in no way recognized by the Egyptian Tribute Bondholders' League, neither those gentlemen nor Mr. Palmer's Committee having authority to act on behalf of the 1854 and 1871 Loans.

That Committee was elected at a meeting invited by Mr. Palmer on the 10th January, which included, and was largely composed of, 1858 bondholders, whose interests, under the Iradé of October 6, 1875, would be benefited at the expense of the Tribute bondholders.

It was in consequence of the attempted fusion of the Tribute Loans with the unsecured Loans that the Tribute Bondholders' League was formed, for the protection of their own interests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JAS. A. RICHMOND MORISON,
Hon. Sec. Egyptian Tribute Bondholders' League.

No. 130.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Morison.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 26, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, stating that Sir Philip Rose, Mr. J. Staniforth, and Mr. Palmer's Committee, are not recognized by the bondholders of the Ottoman Loans of 1854 and 1871 as having authority to act on their behalf.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 131.

Mr. Franklin to the Earl of Derby.—(Received February 26.)

ANGLO-TURKISH LOAN, 1862.

My Lord, *London Institution, Finsbury Circus, February* 25, 1876.

IN order to keep your Lordship well informed in this matter, I submit annexed copy of "reasons wherefore bondholders of the Anglo-Turkish Loan of 1862 could not be parties to proceedings of any miscellaneous meetings of Turkish creditors indiscriminately."

The original of said copy was communicated to Mr. Hamond, M.P., in advance of the meeting convened by him yesterday.

On behalf of all whose interests are entrusted to my advocacy, your Lordship is entreated to resume the place which belongs to your office among "the best advisers of the Porte," referred to in No. 6 of the reasons recited in the annexed page.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. FRANKLIN.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Turkish Bonds.

REASONS wherefore bondholders of the Anglo-Turkish Loan of 1862 cannot be parties to proceedings of any miscellaneous meeting of Turkish creditors indiscriminately :—

1. Because the revenues devised and pledged for security of the 1862 Loan specifically are threatened to be cast into hotch-pot for profit of later lenders, who became so with full knowledge of the pre-existing mortgages.

2. Because it is inconsistent, unusual, and even suicidal, to allure the Porte into terms of compromise, bid for after manner of a Dutch auction, with design to take advantage of sacrifices imposed on weaker parties.

3. Because of risk that advanced creditors may obtain concessions to themselves, preferentially, by pretending acquiescence of other parties therein.

4. Because of endeavours to interpose yet another syndicate for interception or misappropriation of others' dues.

5. Because the conditions precedent of any negotiations in all analogous cases is an effective receivership of available assets by independent hands, afterwards to be apportioned between classified creditors upon equitable principles, impartially administered.

6. Because in this emergency the fairest and most practicable course would be to induce the best advisers of the Porte to commend the foregoing principles to its frank and prompt acceptance.

No. 132.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Franklin.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 29, 1876.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, inclosing a "copy of reasons wherefore bondholders of the Anglo-Turkish Loan of 1862 could not be parties to proceedings of any miscellaneous meetings of Turkish creditors indiscriminately."

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

TURKEY. No. 1 (1876).

CORRESPONDENCE respecting the various Ottoman Loans.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. 1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

ZANZIBAR. No. 1 (1876).

TREATY

BETWEEN

HER MAJESTY

AND

THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR,

SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE

TREATY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE SLAVE TRADE OF JUNE 5, 1873.

Signed at London, July 14, 1875.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
1876.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.

[C.—1387.] *Price* 1*d.*]

Treaty between Her Majesty and the Sultan of Zanzibar, supplementary to the Treaty for the Suppression of the Slave Trade of June 5, 1873.

Signed at London, July 14, 1875.

HER Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and His Highness the Seyyid Barghash-bin-Said, Sultan of Zanzibar, having concluded a Treaty at Zanzibar on the 5th June, 1873, corresponding to the 9th of the month of Rabia-el-Akhir, A.H. 1290, for the abolition of the Slave Trade, and whereas doubts have arisen or may arise in regard to the interpretation of that Treaty, Her Britannic Majesty and His Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar have resolved to conclude a further Treaty on this subject, and have for this purpose named as their Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:

Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Right Honourable Edward Henry, Earl of Derby, Baron Stanley of Bickerstaffe, a Peer and a Baronet of England, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, &c., &c., &c.;

And His Highness the Seyyid Barghash-bin-Said, Sultan of Zanzibar, Nâsir-bin-Saîd-bin-Abdalla;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, have agreed upon and concluded the following Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The presence on board of a vessel of domestic slaves in attendance on or in discharge of the legitimate business of their masters, or of slaves *bonâ fide* employed in the navigation of the vessel, shall in no case of itself justify the seizure and condemnation of the vessel, provided that such slaves are not detained on board against their will. If any such slaves are detained on board against their will they shall be freed, but the vessel shall, nevertheless, not on that account alone be condemned.

ARTICLE II.

All vessels found conveying slaves (other than domestic slaves in attendance on or in the discharge of the legitimate business of their masters, or slaves *bonâ fide* employed in the navigation of the vessels) to or from any part of His Highness' dominions, or of any foreign conntry, whether such slaves be destined for sale or not, shall be deemed guilty of carrying on the Slave Trade, and may be seized by any of Her Majesty's ships of war and condemned by any British Court exercising Admiralty jurisdiction.

ARTICLE III.

The present Treaty shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Zanzibar as soon as possible.*

In witness whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same, and have affixed thereto their seals.

Done at London the fourteenth day of July, in the year of Grace one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.

(L.S.) DERBY.
(L.S.) NASIR-BIN-SAID-ABDALLAH.

This is ratified.
(L.S.) BARGHASH-BIN-SAID.

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* The Sultan of Zanzibar's Ratification is attached to the original Treaty. That of Her Majesty was delivered to the Sultan in Zanzibar, September 20, 1875.